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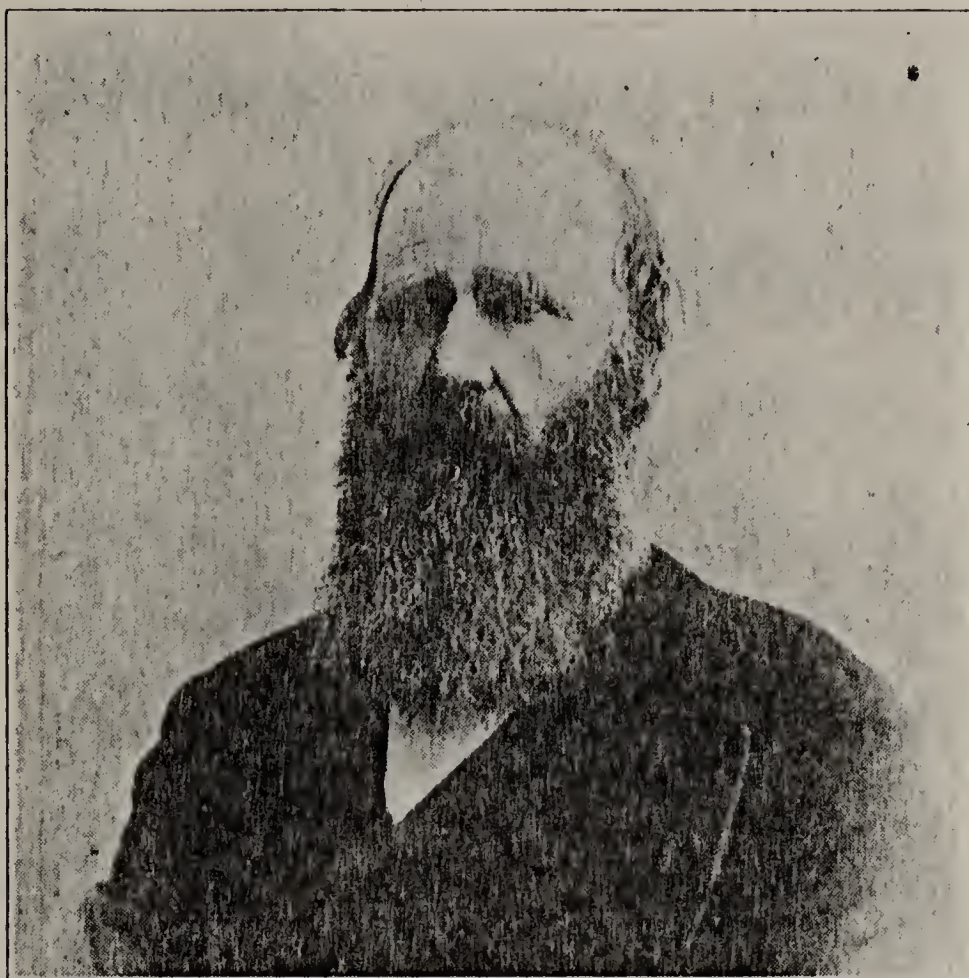
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LIEN FAMILY

Norwegian Pioneers of East Koshkonong,
Dane County, Wisconsin



By
Abel E. Lien
Portland, North Dakota
1930

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Hendrik Lien
(1825-1912)

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Gunnilda Lien
(1831-1895)

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Portrait of
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The eight Lien brothers and their two sisters at the home of Ella Lien (Mrs. O. T. Lee) on Coolidge Day at the Norse Centennial celebration in Minneapolis, 1925

I

INTRODUCTION

Some one has very aptly said: "If a boy were asked by a stranger, 'Whose son are you?' or 'What is your father's name?' and the boy should look like a dullard and be unable to give the information wanted, people would laugh at him and consider him a greenhorn." People who are ignorant of their ancestors and not even interested in the history of their own parents and grandparents are very much like the boy who was ridiculed because he did not know his father's name.

Such ignorance and lack of interest in one's forbears surely does not indicate enlightenment and culture; one should never be proud of such an attitude. Ordinarily children's love for their parents naturally prompts them to take a keen and lively interest in learning much about their ancestors.

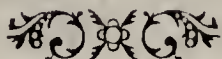
Still we need not go very far or seek very long in our own communities before we meet quite a number of intelligent people who are sadly ignorant of the history of their own ancestors. Examples can readily be produced showing that even prominent people in our own communities would be unable to give even scant information concerning the history of their ancestors. I venture to say that there are many young people today who cannot give the names of their own grandparents. They do not know how long their parents have lived in their present home, and they do not know whether their parents or grandparents came from Rock Prairie, Koshkonong, Spring Prairie, Coon Prairie, Highland Prairie, Washington Prairie, Blue Mounds, or Decorah. There are hundreds of middle aged people in the Norwegian settlements who might guess that their grandparents came from Norway, but they would be unable to tell whether their grandparents came from Hallingdal, Sogn, Stavanger, Trondhjem, Kragerø, or Drøbak.

But this matter cannot be dismissed with a little humor; there is also a serious side to this question. Ignorance and lack of interest in the history of our parents and grandparents is *ungratefulness*. One who does not even know where his parents came from nor care to learn anything about their early history, cannot have been a very loving and dutiful son or daughter while the parents were still living. Such an attitude is not only *ungrateful* but it is even *sinful*. Let us not forget the Fourth Commandment: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long in the earth." If we truly honor our parents while they are with us, we shall also love to honor their memory when

they are no longer here. Let us remember also that God has promised to bless those children who honor and love their parents and superiors.

Someone may interpose: "I am not willing to admit that it is a serious thing not to know, or care to learn anything about my ancestors. Perhaps I am just as well off for not knowing much of their history; it may not all be so very honorable." To such an individual I should reply: "It does not behoove you to have such an opinion of your ancestors. As long as you do not know the history of your own family, it is more than probable that such history would contain many profitable and timely lessons for you."

Our ancestors have deserved a much better fate than to be forgotten by their own children and grandchildren. Instead of even intimating anything disrespectful about our parents and grandparents, let us honor their memory and adorn their graves with flowers.



II

THE NORWEGIAN PIONEER

*At far min kunde gjera
Det gilde han hev gjort,
Og fram i livet bera
So mykje gjævt og stort,
Det var fra tid til annan
For meg so god ei stød
Stor arv det er for mannen
Av godt folk vera fød.*

—AASMUND OLAFSEN VINJE

The Norwegian pioneers in Illinois and Wisconsin in the forties and the fifties and those of Iowa and Minnesota in the fifties and sixties, so far from deserving to be forgotten by their children and grandchildren, have unquestionably merited a place of distinction in the history of those settlements. Knut Langeland, R. B. Anderson, Hjalmar Rued Holand, George T. Flom, and O. M. Norlie deserves much credit for their work in this field. These historians have given the Norwegian pioneers of this country honor and distinction which is well deserved. Their books are available to thousands who should be interested in the life of the pioneers. It is due to lack of knowledge that the descendants of the worthy Norwegian pioneers of this country have done so little to honor their ancestors. The children and the grandchildren of these pioneers should long since have organized their family groups for the purpose of honoring the memory of their ancestors and for training their own children to do the same.

If we possessed a thorough and intimate knowledge of the circumstances under which our ancestors lived, and if we fully realized how well they solved their many and difficult problems we would not only be interested in learning much about them, but would be enthusiastic in honoring them as real heroes and heroines.

There is a great deal of hero worship among us. We recall many of the outstanding men and women whose names shine brightly on the pages of history. From our school days we have always admired such men and women for their genius, nobility of character, and wonderful achievements. Some of us may, during our school days, have written compositions about a number of these illustrious men and women. We pictured their many virtues in glowing terms. We spoke of their limited chances for acquir-

ing education, we spoke of the many hardships which they endured, the many obstacles they overcame, the tremendous sacrifices they made, the wonderful vision they had, and the achievements with which they were credited. These were worthy tasks. No doubt such illustrious men and women have merited all the praise which has been given them.

But what about our own mothers and fathers? What about our own grandparents? It is true that only a very few have such high calling as Martin Luther, George Washington, or Abraham Lincoln. But even though most of us are just "ordinary people"—insignificant wheels in the great world machine—our station in life may still be significant. If *our* work is to be done well, an equal degree of faithfulness is required. The faithful servants received the same words of praise from the Lord whether they had received five talents or only two; therefore, it is not only in the great historical personalities that we should recognize and admire talent, nobility of character, enterprise, and distinguished records. Let us give credit where credit is due.

So far, then, from permitting the names of our ancestry to be forgotten, we are making an effort to pay proper tribute to them. They were modest and humble people who never sought recognition and praise, but they have well deserved that we should remember them with gratitude and honor. If this little attempt at a family history will help, in even a small way, to honor our forebears we shall all of us be happy to think we had a little share in it. Worthy descendants will in the future remember with gratitude and appreciation the eight brothers and two sisters who had many happy family reunions and caused this family history to be written.



III

THE LIEN HOME AT KOSHKONONG, DANE COUNTY,
WISCONSIN

*Aa eg veit meg eit land
Langt der uppe mot nord
Med ei lysande strand
Millom høgsfjell og fjord,
Der eg gjerne er gjest,
Der mit hjarta er fest
Med dei finaste band.
Aa eg minnest, eg minnest so væl
Dette land!*

*Aa eg lengtar saa tidt
Dette landet aa sjaa
Og det dreg meg saa blidt,
Naar eg langt er ifraa.
Med den vaknande vaar
Vert min saknad so saar
So mest graata eg kann.
Aa eg minnest, eg minnest so væl
Dette land.*

—BLIX

Among the many well known Norwegian settlements in the Middle West, Koshkonong is one of the oldest, one of the most beautiful, and one of the best known. Hjalmar Rued Holand, who has written a history of the Norwegian settlements in this country, speaks of Koshkonong as "the most noted of all the Norwegian settlements in America." R. B. Anderson, who wrote "The First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration," says in his history: "Koshkonong is still the most widely known, as well as the wealthiest rural settlement in America." Mr. Holand even goes so far as to state in his book: "Koshkonong has produced a greater number of distinguished Norwegians than any other settlement in America."

Since this is the opinion of these historians, I hope it will not be considered bad taste to quote them in this little family history, which deals with some of the Koshkonong pioneers. Among these pioneers were Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien. The old Lien home is located about five miles south of Cambridge, about two and a

half miles south of Rockdale (formerly Clinton) and about one mile southeast of the East Koshkonong Churches.

Koshkonong gets its name from Lake Koshkonong. The name is of Indian origin. Indians lived near this lake as late as the early seventies. Koshkonong Creek runs through the Lien farm. The beautiful stretch of land extending west from the lake, about twelve miles long and about seven miles wide, has been known as Koshkonong ever since 1840. The two Lutheran congregations organized in 1844 by Pastor J. W. C. Dietrichson were called



The Lien home in 1890. Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien, Herman, Gustav, Didrikke and Neil

East Koshkonong and West Koshkonong. The East Koshkonong Church is located on the part of the old Lien farm now owned by Joseph R. Lien, the fourth of the eight Lien brothers. Herman O. Lien, the sixth of the eight brothers, is the owner of the old Lien home. Herman and his wife Julia, assisted by their children, have beautified and modernized the old home. They have done much more; they have maintained the traditional reputation of the place and have always extended a cordial welcome to the large family group to come "home" as often as it is possible. Many happy reunions have been held there.

In 1845, Hendrik L. Lien, together with his parents, Lars H.

Lien and Jørand Pedersdatter, and his sister, Mrs. Kint Rank, and brother, Peder L. Lien, came to America and settled on the present Lien farm in the town of Christiana. The very first settler in the town of Christiana was Gunnul Olson Vindeg from Nummedal, the father of the more distinguished Ole Gunnulson, the builder of the beautiful East Koshkonong Church erected in 1892. Someone might think that these first settlers in the town of Christiana should have selected the choicest farms. If we consider how excellent the judgment of these pathfinders was in so many respects and do not overlook their many handicaps, we will hesitate to offer criticism. They were entirely unacquainted with the conditions in this new land; their means were limited and therefore they chose places where the necessities, such as water, timber and building material, were plentiful.

The first home on the Lien farm was presumably built in 1845. It was a small, crude log house; located about thirty rods to the south of the present Lien home. The older Lien brothers remember that first house. Although the house was not large and lacked many conveniences, it was much appreciated. Let us visualize the situation. This family had sold their home in Norway, spent eight weeks and most of their money on the journey, and now were in a strange land. The visible supplies for daily need were not very plentiful. They were thankful to God for having so successfully completed their long and weary journey. They had gotten their new home. It was their own. It has been a typical trait of the Norwegian pioneers in Koshkonong, as well as in all the new settlements at this time and later, that they were content and happy. They were thankful to God for His guidance and protection.

The outstanding characteristic of all the Norwegian pioneers in the various settlements in this country was that they were hospitable. Although their means were scant and houses were small, they were always glad to help others temporarily in need.

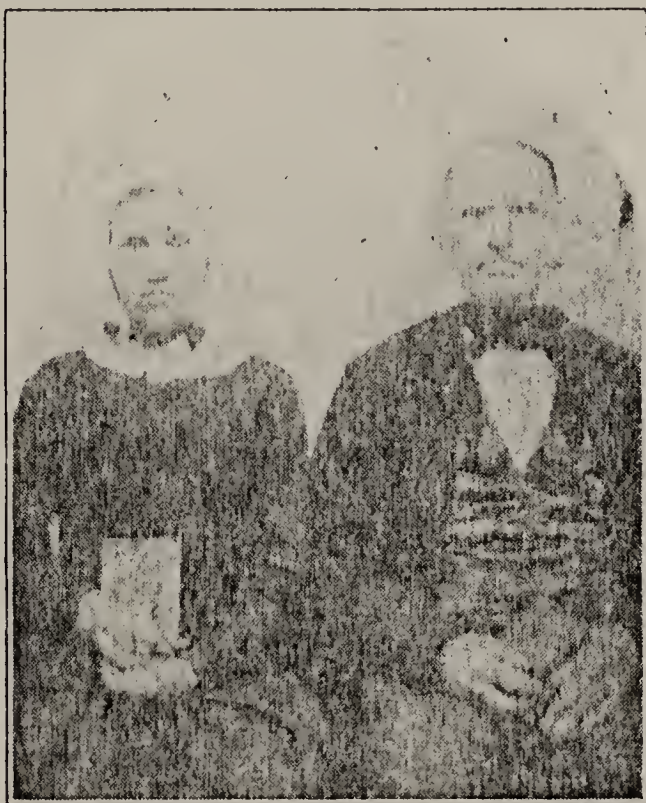


IV

LARS H. AND JØRAND LIEN

The Lien family history will naturally give the largest space and the greatest consideration to Hendrik and Gmunda Lien, who were pioneers at East Koshkonong and built the Lien home. But it is indeed interesting also to know something about their parents and their homes in Norway.

Hendrik Larson Lien's parents were Lars Hendrikson Lien and Jørand Pedersdatter Mattismoen. Lars H. Lien was born



Lars H. and Jørand Lien

on the Lien *gaard*,* Rukkedalen, Nes, Hallingdal, Norway, December 6, 1790. The records in the archives at Oslo bring the Lien family back to 1726. Lars Hendrikson Lien, the great grandfather of the Koshkonong pioneer, Hendrik L. Lien, was born at the Lien home in Hallingdal in 1726. On October 7, 1756, he married Margit Pedersdatter. Their son Hendrik was born in 1758. This Hendrik L. Lien married Maette Østensdatter, about 1788. To this union were born five children: Margit, 1789; Lars Hendrikson Lien, December 6, 1790; Barbro Træco, 1794; Østen H. Lien, 1797; Halvor Thoen, 1799. The sons of

*farm

this Halvor Thoen, Ole and Hendrik, were pioneers in Meeker County, Minnesota. Ole Halvorson, the son of Hendrik Thoen and a second cousin of the Lien brothers and sisters, was well known to Lars, George, and Martin Lien, who have visited Meeker County. Mrs. Hendrik Thoen, whose maiden name was Margit Olson Espesæt, was once an auditor in a church near Northwood, N. Dak., where the writer of this family history was the preacher. Lars Hendrikson Lien, the father of the Koshkonong pioneer, was married April 20, 1820, to Jørand Pedersdatter Mattismoen. The writer visited two of his grandmother Jørand's nephews in Norway in 1914: Peder P. Mattismoen and Knut Stertebakken. The latter was at that time 86 years old. He remembered the Liens well. He was happy to be able to tell that he had accompanied the Liens as far as Drammen when they went to America in 1845.

Lars H. Lien and his wife Jørand Pedersdatter Mattismoen, the parents of the Koshkonong pioneer, owned their home in Rukkedalen, Nes, Hallingdal. The writer visited this home in 1914. What a thrill to visit the place where one's grandparents and great grandparents had lived! It indicates vision and courage on the part of this family to sell their home and go to a new country with a strange language. The *gaard* was like the average *gaard* in many valleys in Norway. I do not know for what amount the



The Lien home in Rukkedalen, Nes, Hallingdal, Norway. The birthplace of Hendrik L. Lien

gaard was sold in 1845. The same *gaard* was sold to its present owner for 6,400 *kröner** in the seventies.

At the time Lars H. Lien was a young man (1815-1820) it was not customary for the young people to learn to write. Only a very few of the people in the valleys of Norway knew the art of writing at that time. But for some reason or other Lars H. Lien had learned to write and became very efficient. He wrote letters for many of his relatives and friends. The writer has in his possession two interesting letters written by this venerable man. They were written in this country to friends and relatives in Norway, one in 1857 and the other in 1862. In the letter from the year 1857 he tells the old friends in Norway that his son Hendrik had married a "very amiable and efficient woman from Sogn." In the other letter he refers to two little boys in the home—Lars and George.



Nesbyen, Hallingdal, showing the church where the Lien family worshipped in Norway

Lars H. Lien, besides being interested in reading and letter writing, was an efficient blacksmith; he was also a shoemaker. This was in keeping with the prevailing custom in Norway. Many of the ordinary farmers learned a trade or two and could make many of the things needed on the *gaard*.

*A crown is equal to 27 cents.

Both Lars and his wife were devout Christians. They were churchgoers and used the Word of God diligently. In her old age Jørand Lien made a practice of having her evening devotion early because, as she put it, "It is much easier for me to read before the evening comes." Although these good old people came to the new country at the age of 55 and 58, they thrived in the new land and did not have much difficulty in adapting themselves to the new order of things. Jørand Lien died in February, 1874, and Lars H. Lien died June 17, 1875. Rev. Jacob Aall Ottesen conducted the funeral services in both cases.



V

JOHANNES JENSEN NÆSET AND ELI INGEBRIGTSON
BERDAHL

Gunnilda Lien's parents were from Sogn, Norway. Through considerable correspondence and investigation of records, I have traced Gunnilda Lien's ancestors back to about 1700. Anders Helleland was born in 1710. He was married to Kari Jensdatter in 1745. Their children were: Anders, Anna, Thuri, Anders, and Jens.

Jens was born November 3, 1756. Jens Johanneson Helleland was married twice. His first wife (1786) was GjØa Pedersdatter Aafidt. They lived in Feios, a few miles from Vik. Their children were Anders, Peder, and GjØa. He married the second time in 1795; this wife's name was Gro Einarsdatter NjØs. It is the custom in Norway that a person gets his name from the place where he resides. For this reason Jens Helleland's name was changed to Jens Aafidt when he took up his abode in Feios. To the second union the following children were born: Johannes Naeset, Ingebrigt Aase, Jens Aafidt, Anna Fretheim, Per Linde. (I have added the names which these children had in later life; this will help to show the relationship between Linde, Fretheim, Naeset, and Aase.)

Johannes Jensen Aafidt, the father of Gunnilda Lien, was born at Aafidt in Feios, March 5, 1796. In 1823, January 2, he married Eli Ingebrigtsdatter Berdahl in Feios. Her parents were Ingebrigt Einarson Berdahl and Gunnilda Olsdatter. In 1823 Johannes Jensen's father bought a *gaard* in Arnefjord, three Norwegian miles from Feios. In Norway it is customary to give the name of the parish when one wishes to give his place of residence. Vik had the principal church. About one Norwegian mile southwest, right on Sognefjord, we have Arnefjord. The church at Arnefjord was served from Vik. This will explain why the people from Arnefjord sometimes would say they were from Vik. At Arnefjord, which has a church and a store, there are about eight or ten small farms. All of these farms are situated on a promontory (Nes). For this reason all the families living at Arnefjord claimed the name Naes or Næset. But at home in Arnefjord, each little place had its own name, such as Leite, Haugen, or Kranne. Besides the little farms at home each family had a share in the mountain region close by where they would keep their cattle all summer. Right close to Arnefjord the mountains

are snowcapped all summer. From this mountain region they get their hay which is transported from the mountain to the *gaard* by a cable. The writer and his wife spent a couple of days at Arnefjord. They were received in the very house in which his mother was born. They were indeed honored guests, because on



The home of Johannes J. and Eli Naeset, Arnefjord, Sogn, Norway. The birthplace of Gunnilda Lien

Sunday morning the boy was sent up to the *sæter*,* four or five American miles, to get real cream for the visitors. The writer and his wife also visited Ole Pederson Haugen, a brother of Mrs. J. J. Naeset.

This farm, Leite in Arnefjord, became the home of Johannes Jensen Naeset, and his wife Eli, in 1823. Johannes J. Naeset—the Lien children used to call him “Bedstefar Søg,” meaning grandpa South, to distinguish him from grandpa at home—was well known for his handicraft. He was a wood carver, making excellent spinning wheels and various pieces of furniture. He was a violin maker of considerable reputation. He was also musical and a violinist of no mean ability. Jens J. Naeset, a son of Johannes J. Naeset, became an organist and a choir leader, with-

*mountain pasture



Johannes Jensen Naeset

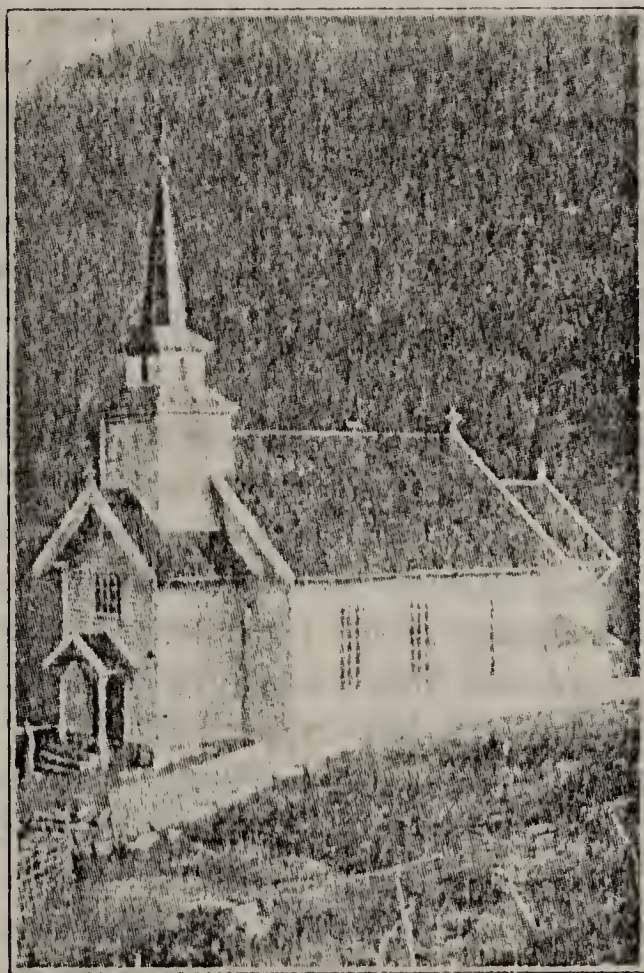
out having attended school. The children of Ingebrigt Naeset were very musical. Let me mention John, Lars and Adolph.

It may be of interest to some of his descendants to know that Johannes J. Naeset once played for a very distinguished person. When Ole Bull gave his concert in Stoughton, Wisconsin, in the early seventies, old Johannes Naeset came to Stoughton to hear him. R. B. Anderson presented the old man to Mr. Bull who became interested in the old violinist and violin maker, and requested him to play for him. Grandfather Naeset complied with the request, whereupon Ole Bull complimented him on his ability.

In many of the ten Lien families there is considerable musical talent; how much of this is a legacy from the great grandfather, Johannes Jensen Naeset, may be a question but nevertheless his memory is especially honored because of his interest in music.

Johannes Naeset never was a robust man. He was unable to do hard manual labor because of his frail health. For years he had pains in one of his legs and shortly after coming to America, this leg was amputated. Eli Ingebrigtson Berdahl, his wife, was a very intelligent and God-fearing woman. It has been told of

her that she had considerable administrative ability and, with the complete consent of her husband, managed the affairs of the family very well. She possessed a thorough knowledge of the way of salvation. She took considerable pains to instill in her children reverence for God and His church and her good Christian influence was instrumental in moulding the character of her children. She loved to sing hymns and sang them well. The traditional customs and practices of a Christian family were faithfully observed as well in the old home in Norway as in the new home in America. This good mother taught her children prayers and Bible truths which always stayed with them. Eli Naeset did not live long but her life was so full and rich that her Christian influence has brought God's blessing to several generations. She died in 1850 while her husband, Johannes J. Naeset, lived until 1882.



*The church at Arnefjord, Sogn, where
Gunnilda Lien was a member*

VI

COMING TO AMERICA

In the year 1845, these Koshkonong pioneers came to America. Although, as we have read, Hendrik Lien was born in Nes, Hallingdal, in 1825, and Gunnilda Lien was born at Arnefjord, Sogn, in 1831, very many miles apart, they both came to America the same year and settled in the town of Christiana as near neighbors.

In Dr. G. T. Flom's "History of the Norwegian Immigration," we read on page 309: "During the year 1845 there came also a group of immigrants to Koshkonong from Vik Parish, namely several families from Arnefjord. This party included several Naeset families, the oldest living survivor of which is Jens J. Naeset (b. 1828), well-known Koshkonong architect, who resides at Stoughton, Wisconsin. I have had several interviews with Mr. Naeset relative to their sailing, and their early life as pioneers; it will be possible to give here only the briefest facts. Jens Naeset tells me that there were eight estates at Naeset and that the owners of four of them sold out at the same time and went to America. The biggest of these estates was that of Ingebrigt Naeset, or as he was usually called Skuungen. In the party were Jens Naeset's parents, Johannes Jensen Naeset and wife Eli, his oldest sister Gro, married to Ole Larson (Haugen) who is living at Cambridge, Wisconsin, two brothers, Ingebrigt and John, and another sister (Gunnilda) who later married Hendrik Lien of East Koshkonong."

It is interesting to note what B. Ingebrigtson, a brother of Mrs. Jens J. Naeset, writes about their exodus from Arnefjord in 1845: "My parents were married in Arnefjord, Sogn, in 1813, one year after the terrible landslide in Arnefjord, which without any warning completely destroyed seven *gåards* and killed a large number of people. In 1845 we set sail for America. The name of the boat was 'Peder Schrøder' and the name of the captain was Stub, from Bergen. As soon as we reached New York, three captains and Ole Bull visited us. We considered it a great honor to receive a visit from such distinguished people. In Rochester Johannes Naeset and his son John became separated for a while from the party through some accident. Having arrived at Koshkonong, we bought land for \$3 an acre. In order to raise some money we went out and got work at the rate of 25 cents per day. My sister, Gjertrud, was married to Jens J. Naeset." It has not been possible to ascertain the exact time when the group from

Arnefjord arrived at Koshkonong. It was presumably about July 15th, 1845.

Some three weeks later, about August 10th the group from Nes, Hallingdal, arrived at Koshkonong. They crossed the Atlantic on the boat "Skulda" and it had taken them eight weeks to cross the ocean.

People who make the trip to Europe in our day and think of such accommodations as they get on the "Stavangerfjord" or the great Cunarder, "Berengaria"—accommodations which rival those of the finest hotels in our large cities—do well to remember that it was not always thus! The immigrants of 1845 suffered untold hardships on their voyage. In the first place, it required a great length of time. Think of being from ten to fourteen or even sixteen weeks on the ocean! Passengers were expected to supply their own food. At that time the immigrants were usually sent via New York, Albany, Buffalo, and on the lakes to Milwaukee. The accommodations on the canal boats across New York and on the lake boats were almost inhuman. The immigrants were treated shamefully. When they finally reached Milwaukee, all the able bodied people of the groups we have described had to walk to Koshkonong. Their baggage was put on a *kubberulle** drawn by oxen. The trip to Koshkonong required at least three days. When Mr. Luraas, who hauled the luggage of the Arnefjord group, reached a point near the present Rockdale (Fladland) at sunset, on the third day from Milwaukee, he unloaded the chests of the newcomers and told them: "This is Koshkonong." Mr. Tosten Selsen, who chanced to be near the place at the time found shelter for them at Hamres.

People who have the courage and the endurance to go through such hardships and still keep a sweet disposition must be called heroes and heroines. Let us who are descendants of these pioneers, take our hats off to such people! They deserve to be honored. We ought to be proud of people with such wonderful physical strength, high character, and indomitable courage. They had the right kind of mettle!

*A clumsy, home made wagon. The wheels were like disc wheels except they were made of wood.

VII

HENDRIK AND GUNNILDA LIEN

This is the most important chapter of the family history. In trying to paint a picture of these worthy pioneers of East Koshkonong, I have in my mind many of the pioneers of East Koshkonong in the forties, fifties, and sixties. What is true of some is equally true of others. But, let others write the history of other worthy pioneers: I want to pay a tribute to my parents.

Hendrik Larson Lien was born on the Lien *gaard* in Rukkedalen, Nes, Hallingdal, Norway, December 23, 1825, and Gunnilda Lien was born at Arnefjord, Sogn, Norway, May 18, 1831. They were married in 1851. They had been near neighbors ever since they came to America in 1845. The Naeset home was situated only about half a mile south of the Lien home. Gunnilda Lien was confirmed by C. L. Clausen at East Koshkonong in 1846. The records show that she had a very good rating in the confirmation class.

Between her confirmation in 1846 and her marriage in 1851 she spent some time at Whitewater and in other places to earn a little money as a maid. This gave her an opportunity to learn to speak the English language.

Before his marriage and possibly after his marriage, Hendrik Lien had to seek outside work which would bring the family some money. One of the places where he found employment was in the lead mines at Mineral Point. There he was employed part of the time working in the mines and part of the time hauling enormous loads with five yoke of oxen. He thus became an expert driver. By dint of hard work, careful management, rigid economy and frugal habits the young pioneers soon built a good home. Like all other Koshkonong pioneers in the fifties, Hendrik Lien made a number of trips to Milwaukee, about 75 miles away. The roads were poor, the oxen were slow, and the *kubbernulle* was heavy. Ordinarily the trip would require about six days—three days each way. Think of the privations and hardships—spending six days on the road for each trip to the city and sleeping at night *in* the wagon or *under* it. Think of the weary and long hours at home for the young mother!

As early as 1853 the large stone house was built on the Lien farm. This house had six rooms and a kitchen. A little later, about 1860, an addition was built. This part is still intact.

In those early days the pioneers did not demand many things

in the name of necessity. They paid as they went, and got new things only when they could afford them.

Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien were content to use their oxen until about 1862, although they might have enjoyed having horses before that time. After they had finally gotten their first team of colts, they were sold and the money paid out to exempt the young husband from service in the Civil War. This energetic young couple got their first buggy about 1870, although they must have longed to get one years before. Hendrik and his wife never had any inclination to speculate. They were content to go slowly. But they were consistent winners. From year to year they developed a well equipped farm and a very comfortable home. In the fifties their farm did not consist of more than 40 acres. Later more land was bought. In the early sixties Hendrik Lien bought the farm on which the East Koshkonong Church is located, purchasing one forty from Lars Duckstad and the other from Gunsten Rolfson. Later, in the early eighties, the Naeset forty on the west was bought. The Liens also owned a little piece of timber land in Jefferson County. Two hundred and seventeen acres was considered a good-sized farm at Koshkonong at that time.

The large stone house which had been so very satisfactory in 1853 seemed inadequate to the demands of a large and growing family in the early seventies. Accordingly plans were made for a new and more commodious home. Indeed a sensible conclusion for people who had the means to satisfy their needs! In 1874 Hendrik Lien built one of the largest houses at Koshkonong at that time. Jens J. Naeset, a brother of Gunnilda Lien, was the architect. The house was completed in 1875, and is now Herman O. Lien's home. A good sized barn was erected about 1870—a granary and tobacco sheds a little later. The farm was well equipped.

But a home, a real home, does not consist only of buildings. There are a great many cases of new buildings, large buildings, modern buildings, and well equipped buildings, which are still sadly lacking in the things which are absolute requirements of a good home. In many instances we may find as much of style and convenience as wealth can secure, and still these so-called "homes" are little more than "filling-stations." The sons and daughters will often come home when they are in need of sleep and food and running expenses, but they much prefer to spend their time elsewhere.

The old Lien home in East Koshkonong did not perhaps have the finest appointments or the most modern equipment; but it was a place where the parents and the children loved to be. And when the time came for the children to attend school or seek em-

ployment, or establish homes of their own, they all remembered the old home with gratitude and joy and assembled there as often as they could.

Now what was the secret of this love for the home? I think it was love for those, who as God's willing servants, made that home such a good place. Hendrik Lien was not a man of many words. He had not had a chance to acquire an education at school. But he was an intelligent man who acquired considerable knowledge through his reading. He was a loyal citizen and an active member of the Lutheran Church. He was a respected man in the community.

Gunnilda Lien had also had very limited chances for "book learning." But she was a keen observer and a very capable woman. She possessed considerable initiative. She planned well and always planned together with her husband. The two would often discuss their problems together and always worked in fine harmony. They were consistently concerned about the welfare of their children. They received their power and wisdom from the Word of God. In addition to the regular reading of the Word of God—it might have been more often for the whole family—both Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien, especially mother, read the Bible and devotional books extensively. She would very often rise in the night and spend considerable time reading "Scriver's Sjaleskat" or other devotional books. There is no doubt that they were both Godfearing and praying Christians.* There is no doubt in my mind but that the blessing of God, which so richly has attended the children and grandchildren, has come to them as an answer to grandpa and grandma Lien's earnest and repeated prayers for their children. From the earliest days the Liens were regular churchgoers. Let me add here something which should not be omitted. The congregation in Arnefjord, Norway, has for a long time been known as a group of devout church people who never failed to attend public worship.

My recollections from the seventies and the eighties are that the members of the East Koshkonong Church were regular churchgoers. Let the descendants in the third and fourth generations honor these good pioneers for their faithfulness in attending public worship and the gathering for daily family worship. We can honor them properly and thank them truly if we permit their good example to influence our lives.

Space will not permit me to enlarge upon the fine Christian life of these worthy pioneers. But I must mention the attitude

*One of their sons made the remark at one of the reunions recently: "I am quite sure that our parents have offered many prayers for us."

which grandpa and grandma Lien took toward the Christian schools. At the time when Luther College was built in 1861, Hendrik and Gunnilda made a handsome contribution, although it demanded strict economy and much sacrifice. They were consistent supporters of the Christian schools and missions. They gave all their children an opportunity to attend schools beyond the grades. Monona Academy, Albion Academy, Stoughton Academy, Albert Lea Academy and Lutheran Ladies' Seminary, have one or more Lien names on their old records. One son was given the opportunity to finish the course at Luther College and Luther Seminary.

In this connection I wish to quote a prayer which Gunnilda Lien wrote. It was found in one of her books. No comment is needed—the prayer is the cry of a troubled and anxious child of God. I prefer to have this prayer printed in the original, since that will make it all the more dear to her children. We do not want to miss this personal touch.

“Kjære Gud og Fader, atter beder jeg dig at du vil oplyse min forstand saa jeg kan forestaa mit hus retteligen, og at du vil aabne mine øine at jeg kan se mine egne fejl. Give du at jeg kunde være en ret hustru og en ret kristelig moder for mine børn. Jeg forstaar ikke at opdrage dem i tugt og Herrens formaning. Min bøn er til dig om hjælp dertil. Jeg vilde gjerne leve et gudfrygtig liv, men jeg formaar det ikke som det sig bør. Du alene kjender mit hjertes tanker og min ydmyge begjæring om taalmodighed. Min bøn er svag men dog alvorlig. For dig kan vi ikke hykle. Du kjender alle mine stille taarer. Du har dog selv sagt at den som saar med graad skal høste med glæde.”

—GUNNILDA LIEN, 1869

Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien did not travel very much; people did not travel much in the pioneer days. About 1870 they made a trip to Austin, Minnesota, to visit Grandpa Lien's brother, Peder. They also visited his sister, Mrs. Knut Rank, at St. Ansgar, Iowa. Ella, their five year old daughter, accompanied them.

In 1879 Hendrik Lien was called to Austin. His brother Peder had been killed in an accident. On that same trip Mr. Lien visited his son at Luther College. In 1885 Gunnilda Lien made a trip to Minnesota to visit her sons, Lars E. Lien and his family at Renville, and George Lien and his family at Granite Falls. On the way home from the west, she also visited her son, Abel, who graduated that year from Luther College. The young bachelor of arts was very proud to have his dear mother, through whose efforts his childhood dreams had become a reality, in the audience on his Commencement Day. She was glad and thankful to wit-

ness the realization of her fond hopes and the fulfillment of her earnest prayers.

The duties and the worries of operating the home farm began to weigh heavily on Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien. They were no longer young and had worked hard on that farm for over forty years. They realized that they should retire from active work and place the farm in younger and stronger hands. In 1891, their son Herman and his wife took charge of the farm. Now the old grandparents were at liberty to enjoy a much needed and well earned period of recreation and rest. Their first thought was to visit their children. So accordingly the itinerary for their extended summer trip was soon agreed upon.

They took Neil, their grandson, with them. He is the son of Martin, the third of the eight Lien brothers. Neil's mother, Nelia Nelson, died when Neil was only a few days old. He made his home with his grandparents from infancy until he became of age and has been looked upon more as a younger brother than a nephew.

On this very extended trip (it seemed so to them who had not traveled very much), they spent some weeks with each of the four children who had established homes "far away" from the old Koshkonong pioneer home. They visited Abel at Gary, Minnesota, George at Granite Falls, Minnesota, Lars at Renville, Minnesota, and Ella at Northwood, Iowa.

The pleasures of anticipation had been great, both on the part of the visitors and in the homes which they visited. Those were indeed very happy days! What a thrill for father and mother to be welcomed to the established homes of their children and to see that they were all happy and making good!

Although the grandparents were welcome to remain at the large home at Koshkonong, they very wisely decided to move off the farm. This is a sensible thing to do in all such cases. The difference in age, in views, and in standards between the old and the young, will in many cases develop a little friction and unpleasantness. Often it has even caused estrangement and family quarrels.

In 1893 the grandparents accordingly moved to Northwood, Iowa, to live near their daughter, Ella, wife of Rev. O. T. Lee. In 1894 they built a comfortable home near the Northwood parsonage. The aged couple thrived in their new home. Their youngest daughter, Didrikke (Mrs. B. K. Savre), was at home except when she attended school at Lutheran Ladies' Seminary in Red Wing, Minnesota, and when she studied music in Chicago. Neil was then a young boy attending the Northwood schools.

But these happy days were not to be very many. Grandma

Lien's health began to fail. She had reared an unusually large family and had been a hard and faithful worker all her life. In 1887 she had had a major operation performed at Stoughton, by Dr. N. Omsted. This operation was successful. A little later the same year she suddenly became seriously ill again and her life was despaired of. All her children were called to her bedside, but her time of usefulness was not yet past, and she was spared. It gladdened and cheered her heart to see that all her ten children came home and expressed their kind sympathy for "mother." Lars and George, who had to come from afar, surely showed a fine spirit. During the two years which the Liens lived at Northwood, Grandma Lien's health failed very perceptibly. She was under the doctor's care much of the time. On May 14, 1895, while the grandparents were spending a pleasant evening in their daughter's home, Gunnilda Lien suffered a severe hemorrhage. Her mind remained clear, however, and she realized that death was approaching. She had often spoken of death and had tried earnestly to live in close communion with her Savior. She had often sung the hymn, "Jeg gaar i fare hvor jeg gaar, jeg gaar til døden hvor jeg gaar." But she had also confidently added, "Jeg gaar med Jesus hvor jeg gaar, jeg gaar til himlen hvor jeg gaar." She had long ago begun a consistent Christian life. Daily, and often during the sleepless hours of the night, she had communed with her Lord. Now she gladly answered the call, "Come with Me." She died shortly before noon on May 15.

All of her ten children were again assembled in the home to honor the memory of their beloved mother and to express their sympathy for their father, who so keenly felt the inestimable loss. Funeral services were held at Northwood, Iowa, conducted by Rt. Rev. T. A. Torgerson. The remains were then brought to the old home at East Koshkonong.

On May 20, funeral services were held at the old home as well as at the East Koshkonong Church. Rev. D. G. Ristad preached the funeral sermon and paid a fine tribute to the departed one. A very fine obituary is found in "Kirketidende" No. 25, 1895. This obituary is written in part by Rev. D. G. Ristad, pastor of the East Koshkonong Church at the time of her death, and in part by Rev. Jacob Aall Ottesen, who had known the deceased for 35 years and had been her pastor for 31 years.

After the death of his beloved wife, who had been so much to him through their long life together, Hendrik Lien was a very lonesome man. His eyesight was failing, and it became somewhat embarrassing for him to mingle with strangers. Therefore, soon after his wife's death, he began to long to go back to Koshkonong, where he had lived so long and had so many old friends.

At Koshkonong his two sons still occupied each their part of the old Lien farm. At both of these homes he was welcome. For some years he lived at his old home with Herman, his sixth son.

During his last years he made his home with his fourth son, Joseph, near the East Koshkonong Church. After having been operated successfully for cataract on both his eyes, the venerable old pioneer spent his last years largely in solitude. Due to aches and pains, which seldom are wanting in a ripe old age, Mr. Lien preferred to remain in the home and in his room. There he had his papers and his dear books, which he read regularly and faithfully. Although his schooling in his childhood has been scant, he had developed a great love for reading. Thus he acquired considerable knowledge and useful information. His church paper and his devotional books were his daily comrades. A year or two before he died he committed to memory hymn No. 472 in the Lutheran Hymnary:

"I could not do without Thee,
O Savior of the lost,
Whose wondrous love redeemed me,
At such tremendous cost;
Thy righteousness, Thy pardon,
Thy precious blood must be
My only hope and comfort,
My glory and my plea.

I could not do without Thee,
I cannot stand alone,
I have no strength or goodness,
No wisdom of my own;
But Thou, beloved Savior,
Art all in all to me;
And weakness will be power
If leaning hard on Thee."

His children, even those who lived far away, came home to visit their father, and their visits were always welcomed. Like other good old Norwegian pioneers, he was not effusive, to be sure, but in his quiet way he made one feel his sincere love and hearty appreciation.

Repeated attempts were made to induce old grandpa Lien to take a trip and spend some weeks or months with his children who were "out west." But the octogenarian always declined with thanks. He felt that he was too old and helpless to

travel. He preferred to live *in* and *on* the old memories and not seek any new experiences. But "the young may die, the old must die." Hendrik Lien had reached the ripe old age of nearly 87. The well built, healthy looking old pioneer had reached his limit too.

He was the last of the six venerable Koshkonong pioneers who were honored by their congregation in a very fine way. The congregation secured a picture of this group of six and placed it on the wall in the East Koshkonong church in 1894. These pioneers were near neighbors and friends of Hendrik Lien: Jens Pederson Vehus, Halvor L. Kravik, Tollef J. Bekhus, Peder Larson Svartskur, and Ole K. Ellingson.

Hendrik Lien died December 29, 1912. He received good care in the home of Joseph and his wife Lena, who did much to make his last years pleasant. During the last weeks of his life, his oldest son, Lars, and his two daughters, Ella and Didrikke, set aside their duties at home and remained at the bedside of their father until his death. They were glad to offer their help in doing whatever was possible to make the suffering of their dying father as tolerable as possible, and to show their sympathy and love for him. On the evening of December 29, the Lord sent His angel to carry the soul of his Godfearing and devout man to the heavenly home.

The funeral was held on January 2, 1913, Rev. Johannes Halvorson, who had visited Grandpa Lien often during his old age and last illness, officiated both at the home and at the church. All the ten children came home to honor the memory of their beloved father. The six oldest sons were the acting pallbearers from the home. The funeral services were attended by a large number of friends. Among them were Rev. J. A. O. Stub of Stoughton, Rev. J. Linnevold of Edgerton, and Rev. N. C. A. Garness of Whitewater. Rev. Johannes Halvorson paid a fine tribute to Hendrik Lien in his funeral sermon, and in an obituary which is found in "Kirketidende" No. 3, 1913. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."



VIII

PASTOR JACOB AALL OTTESEN

The Lien family history would not be complete unless it contained something about the distinguished pioneer pastor who served East and West Koshkonong and Liberty Prairie Congregations for thirty-one years. This venerable pastor, Jacob Aall Ottesen, was not only the pastor of the Lien family for thirty-one years, but he was considered a very dear friend by the family. He baptized all the Lien children except the three oldest of the living. He confirmed all the ten children. He performed the wedding ceremony for George, Martin (twice), Joseph, Abel, Ella, and Herman. He ordained Abel. He requested the privilege of giving Mrs. B. K. Savre her name, when she was about to be baptized. Accordingly her name is Didrikke Aall Ottesen. Rev. and Mrs. Ottesen were Mrs. Savre's sponsors. He tutored Mrs. A. E. Lien (Andrea Kittilsen) in Norse. He baptized several of the Lien grandchildren. In his will, Rev. Ottesen wrote this sentence: "My gold headed cane I give to Jacob Aall Ottesen Lien, a son of Rev. Abel Lien."

Rev. Ottesen was recognized for his learning and ability as well as for his piety. He was elected to a professorship at Luther Seminary. He was also elected president of the Eastern District of the Norwegian Synod. Due to his delicate health he declined both these high offices. After resigning the Koshkonong parish in 1891, he made his home in Decorah, Iowa. He wished to be near his dear Luther College and his dear friends, Dr. L. Larsen and Dr. Vilhelm Koren. Pastor Ottesen died in 1904.



IX

EAST KOSHKONONG CHURCHES

The first church of the East Koshkonong congregation was built in the fall of 1844. It was small and crude, to be sure. Though it was built of logs and very plain, it was a dear church home for the forty pioneer families who had recently organized the congregation. Tears of joy and thankfulness to God were shed by the devout and Godfearing pioneers when they assembled in their own church for its dedication on January 31, 1845.



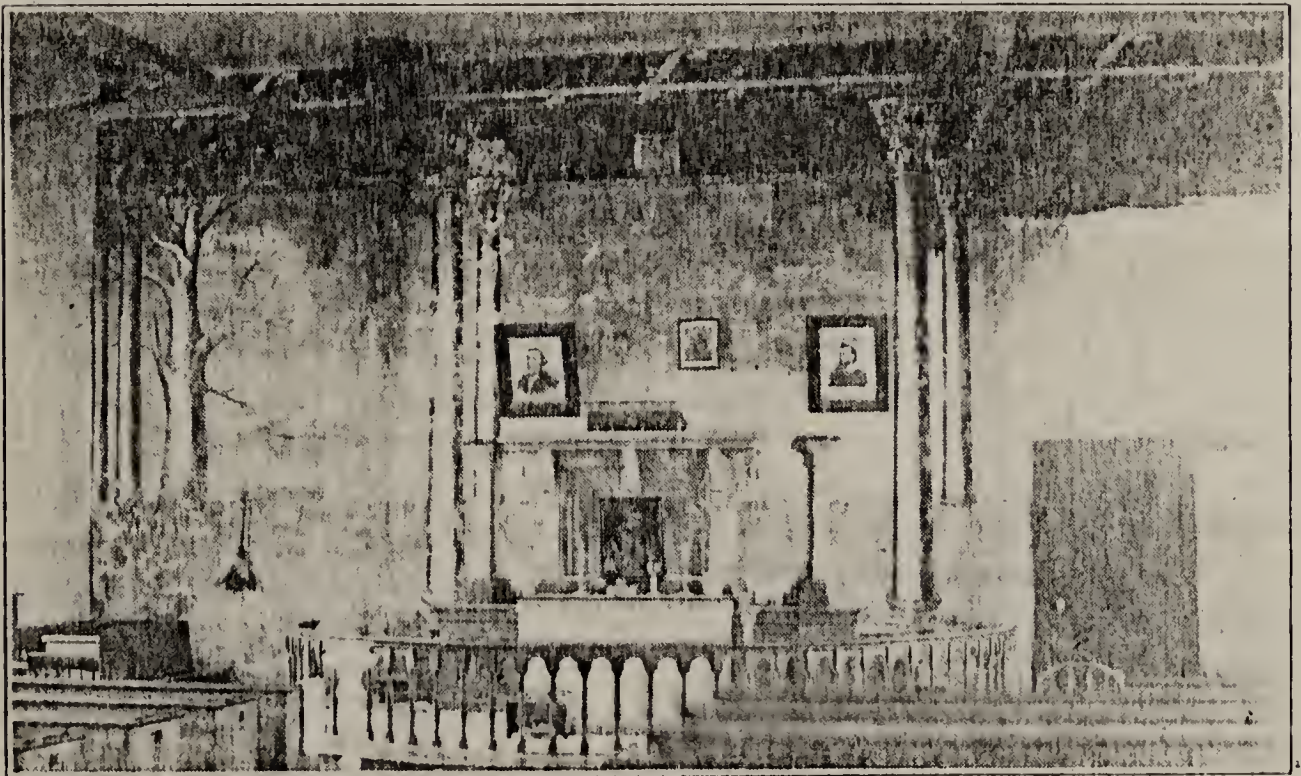
The home of Gunnul Vindeig. Here the Lien family dwelt until they had built their own home. In the background the first East Koshkonong church can be seen

But the church which has so many memories for the Lien family was the stone church which was built in 1858. Even that church was plain and its decorations primitive. That quaint old stone church became dear to the many thousands who worshiped there for more than forty years. How familiar that old stone church seems to the Lien family. It was built on the Lien farm. It was in plain view from the homes of both Joseph Lien and Herman Lien. Nearly all the Lien children were baptized in that church, all ten confirmed, six of the ten married there. Abel was baptized, confirmed, ordained, and married in that church by Pastor Jacob Aall Ottesen.

Such historic landmarks with their large number of dear memories should not be torn down. They should not only be permitted to stand, but they should be kept intact and the surround-



The old stone church at East Koshkonong built in 1858



Interior of the old stone church at East Koshkonong

ings beautified, by generation after generation. This would give the descendants of worthy pioneers a direct contact with that wonderful Christian spirit which filled the minds and hearts of the pioneers and made their lives beautiful.

In 1892 the third church, the present church, was erected. It is a beautiful building and has an unrivalled location. It is a challenge to the third, fourth, fifth and coming generations at East Koshkonong not to rely on location and architectural grandeur but to strive for the spiritual strength which so richly enhanced the significance of the first and second church buildings—all pews occupied by devout worshipers as often as the church bell was heard "calling the old and young."

It is not amiss to mention that the ten Lien families of the second generation have remained active in the Lutheran Church, each family maintaining membership in its place of residence. May succeeding generations remain in the Christian faith of their fathers!



X

REUNIONS

It has been a source of joy to many to observe that a considerable number of the Norwegian pioneer families have for some time come together for reunions. Let us hope that very many more such families will observe this beautiful custom. It is sad to think that so many sons and daughters of the pioneers who might easily have in operation a splendid system of reunions, are widely separated and have not met for years. Their parents and grandparents have been forgotten. The grandsons and granddaughters of illustrious Norwegian pioneers scarcely know the names of their uncles and aunts. They do not know how many cousins they have. They do not know where they live. The writer knows of an instance where two brothers had lived in this country for 50 years and had never visited each other, and another of two sisters who had not met for 53 years.

The Lien family cannot boast of anything so very great. I like to give my parents and especially my mother credit for the idea of reunions in our family. All the Lien children will remember with grateful hearts how their mother would plan to gather all the members of the family for certain festive occasions. We cannot forget the many happy gatherings in the old home every Christmas Eve for many years. Each one of the children had a part to play but mother had planned the whole program and always succeeded in carrying it out well.

The ten Lien children have had many happy reunions. At first it seemed well nigh impossible to gather as many as ten brothers and sisters, especially since they were scattered over several states. Intercourse was not frequent thirty or forty years ago. But as conditions changed and a few letters were exchanged regarding this matter, all the brothers and sisters have found that a reunion was not such a tremendous undertaking as it had seemed. When one is determined and actually wants to get the obstacles removed they are not so big after all. Besides coming home for various occasions in larger or smaller numbers, the individuals often came home to visit father and the old home.

The first reunion as such without coming home for a particular occasion took place in 1900. I can yet see how pleased grandpa Lien was to see all his ten children gather to honor him. In 1906 the Lien children presented their father with a gold headed cane. He appreciated the gift but thought the cane was a little too fancy for daily use.

In the meantime the idea of a real family reunion was being

discussed in letters. Interest was kindled, and enthusiasm began to be noticed. Herman and his wife, who naturally would have to bear the brunt of the entertainment, were fully as enthusiastic about the reunion as the rest.

In 1921 a reunion was held at the old home at Koslikonong. Nine of the children were present with at least a part of their families. Only one was missing. About fifty guests took part in the festive gathering. Rev. Johannes Halvorson and his family were guests at the festival. At that time the idea of making some arrangements to get a family history written was discussed. The writer of this little history was elected to do the work.

One of the family group began early in 1925 to plan for a reunion that year. Letters were sent to urge all the members of the family to be present at the Norse American Centennial in Minneapolis. When President Calvin Coolidge was delivering his memorable address to the honor of the Norwegian pioneers in America, every one of the ten Lien children was present to hear the president. They were then all invited to assemble in Mrs. Ella Lee's home in North Minneapolis. We had an unusually happy time together. At that meeting pictures were taken of the eight brothers and two sisters. That was the last time that the long line of ten was unbroken. We had often spoken about how unusual it was for as many as ten brothers and sisters to spend so many years together. The oldest one, Lars, was at that time 72 years old, and the youngest, Didrikke, was 48 years old. The next time the family was gathered, was for a sad occasion. Death had claimed one of the ten. Mrs. Ella Lee died October 11, 1926. Funeral services were held in Minneapolis on the thirteenth and at Northwood, Iowa, on the fourteenth.

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In 1927 on August 27, all the eight Lien brothers and the one remaining sister were together for another very happy reunion. The occasion was Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Savre's silver wedding. Mrs. Savre is Didrikke Lien. The younger generation was also fairly well represented on this occasion. Some of the cousins met for the first time. They came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, but they were all cousins and all of them were Liens. A very fitting program was rendered, consisting of hymn singing, speeches, and solos. Appropriate gifts were presented to the silver bridal couple. The following day our hosts entertained twenty-eight guests at the summer hotel on beautiful Lake Minnewaska. Again speeches were made. While all these many guests were enjoying the festive meal it was whispered from guest to guest that the youngest daughter of our host and hostess Esther Savre, was celebrating her birthday on that very



Lien family reunion at Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Savre's silver wedding at Glenwood, Minn., August, 1927

day. A little purse was made up and a few short talks were given in honor of the blushing sweet sixteen. A spirit of joy and gladness prevailed. The event was so happy that one of the brothers then extended an invitation to have our next reunion at his home. That invitation was too good to pass up. "Verbum sat sapienti." I hope that the many college men and women within the group will master this Latin quotation.

The invitation gave the group something to work on for the reunion of 1928. By this time it had been agreed that there must be a Lien reunion once each year. In a group as large as the Lien group there should be some anniversary or some red letter day every year.

A little investigation soon brought out the fact that the oldest brother, Lars, would become 75 years old in 1928. It was also found that Lars and his wife were married on July 26, 1882. Accordingly it was suggested that the plans for the Lien reunion for 1928 would be these: place Renville, Minnesota; time July 26, the forty-sixth wedding anniversary of Lars and Mary. The seventy-fifth birthday of the groom could also be fittingly observed.

The fact that Rev. Ole Løkensgaard of Hanley Falls, Minnesota could attend this family festival, added much to the occasion. Rev. Løkensgaard is not only an old friend of the Lien family since 1878, but he read the service at the wedding of Lars and Mary in Granite Falls in 1882.

A very interesting program was rendered, consisting of singing and speechmaking. Talks were given by Rev. Ole Løkens-

gaard, Prof. B. K. Savre, and the writer. A gold headed cane was presented to the groom to help him remember that he was getting to be an old man. The bride was given a beautiful brooch of the popular Norwegian style.



Lien family reunion, 1926, at the home of Lars E. Lien

At the Renville reunion, all the eight brothers and their sister were present. The second generation was again well represented. Mr. Adolph Anderson and family of East Koshkonong attended the reunion. Mr. Anderson is a nephew of Mrs. Lars Lien. Some very good pictures were taken at the Renville gathering. On July 27, the day following the celebration at Renville, the whole group was invited to spend the day at Granite Falls, at the home of the second of the Lien brothers, George. George and his wife Louise gave a very fine reception for the whole group.

It is self-evident that our reunion, God willing, must be at Granite Falls in 1932 on July 11. On that day George and his wife will celebrate their golden wedding. Let us hope that many of the members of the ten Lien families can come together to make this occasion a real red letter day for that venerable couple.

The Lien family has the spirit of reunion in such a degree that the reunions of late have been annual affairs. Nothing short



The eight Lien brothers and their sister, Didrikke, at the 1928 reunion in Renville, Minn.

of that will do. We are so fortunately situated in the family that our genial host at the old home at East Koshkonong has his birthday August 8. If there is no other occasion for assembling, we surely can get together and celebrate Herman's birthday. He has one every year, and that is not all. In his family they think much of their red letter days, and so one of Herman and Julia's daughters, Hattie, chose August 8 as her wedding day.

In 1929, therefore, the Lien family had a very happy reunion at the old home again. This reunion also gave the brothers and sisters an occasion to honor the seventh brother, Gustav, and his wife, Jennie. None of the brothers and sisters had had the opportunity to observe their silver wedding. At this meeting every family was represented. There were three generations represented among the 62 guests who sat down to the festive meal. An appropriate program with speeches and singing was rendered. Appropriate gifts were presented to the honored guests, Gustav and his wife. Our host, brother Herman, was given a beautiful fountain pen as a birthday gift. Since then he dares not be slack in his letter writing to his brothers and his sister. Rev. O. Borge and family of the East Koshkonong congregation, were guests at this festival.

On August 11, 1929, the East Koshkonong Church celebrated its eighty-fifth anniversary. Rev. A. E. Lien of Portland, North Dakota, preached the anniversary sermon. It was considered a distinct honor by him to be the speaker at such an unusual festival. He enjoyed the unique experience of having his seven brothers and his sister, as well as the whole family group, as his auditors in the historic church on the old Lien farm.

When the summer of 1930 rolled around the Lien reunion was again held at the old farm home. Herman and Julia were once more the cordial and gracious host and hostess. August 10, 1930, found all the eight Lien brothers with their sister and numerous members of the later generations gathered for a happy day of many memories for some and one of meeting "more and more" Liens for others. Even though the older ones in the group are getting along in years they were on hand with as much spirit and pep as any of the younger crowd. Cousins from the third generation represented all but three of the ten Lien families. It was especially gratifying to have the boys and girls of this group enter into the occasion with such understanding and appreciation. This was particularly evidenced by the contributions to the program and the effecting of an organization among the cousins.

Some sixty or more enjoyed the day together and did full justice to the bountiful repasts that were served by all the Wisconsin Liens. A somewhat formal program was offered in the early afternoon followed by much informal music later in the evening. There is more than sufficient talent in the group so that the future problems in program making may have to concern themselves with such factors as time limits and eliminations. Be that as it may, all speeches and musical offerings were much enjoyed as was the opportunity for all to have such a splendid "get-together." Rev. Olaf Borge and family and Mrs. Cecelia Linde, a cousin of the ten Liens, were welcome guests at this reunion.

Prof. B. K. Savre and Miss Agnes Lien were elected to make arrangements for the 1931 reunion.

The "faraway" Liens from Renville, Granite Falls, Portland, Minneapolis, Lawler, and Glenwood spent several days visiting in and about the homes of the "Wisconsin" Liens and were everywhere greeted by kindly and genial hospitality. Especially to be mentioned is the day spent at the Oscar Lien home at Rio, Wisconsin, where the feature of the day was violin playing by three of the Lien brothers, George, Joseph and Oscar.

In conclusion I would express the wish that there may be many more such happy reunions, but more than that I would pray that all may sometime, each on his appointed day, gather in that heavenly home where partings are no more.

XI

THE THIRD GENERATION IN AMERICA

A history of the Lien family must have something about the children of the pioneers. I realize that one does not usually write the history of the living. I realize also that it is a little embarrassing to write about one's nearest kin. But since this little family history is written for the benefit also of the fourth and fifth generations they will be looking for a short sketch of their parents and grandparents.

Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien had fourteen children. Four of them died in infancy. They were:

Lars Eliscus, born March 26, 1852, died April 21, 1852.

Johannes, born Dec., 1854, died Oct., 1857. (His death was caused by an accident.)

Gustav, born 1869, died 1869.

A still born baby in 1875.

The ten Liens who have so often been referred to in this history, are:



*Mrs. Lars E. Lien
(Marn Mathison)*



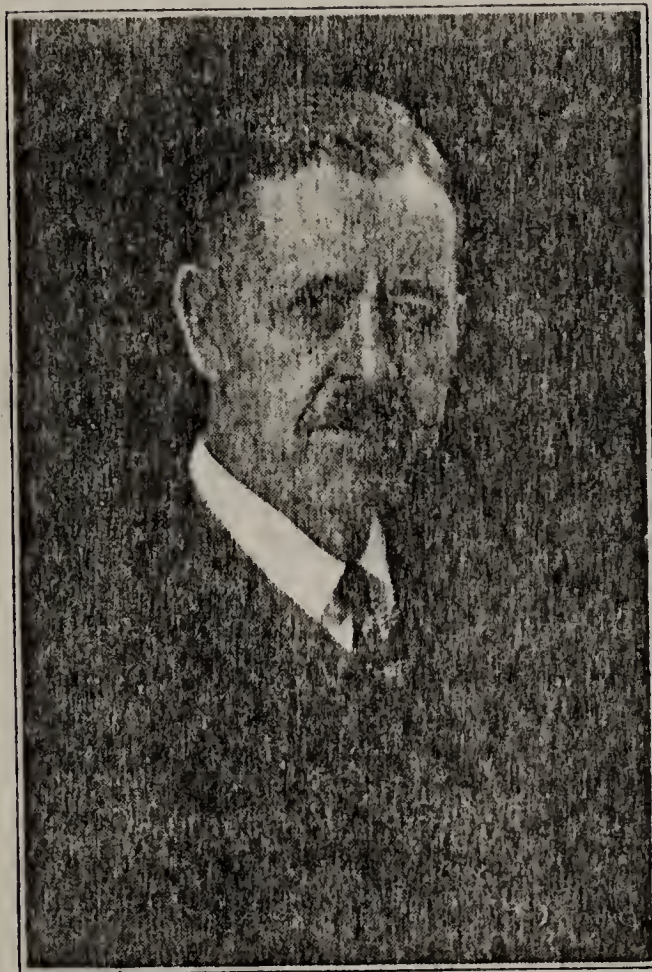
Lars E. Lien

1. *Lars Eliseus* was born on January 14, 1853. Of the ten children who reached manhood and womanhood, Lars is the oldest. He is endowed with an unusually good memory and a great capacity for observing and retaining facts and events. He has traveled considerably and mingled with a great many interesting people, including a number of prominent politicians. He has many qualities that might have given him positions in public life if he had chosen to enter those fields. In his boyhood days there were only scant opportunities for schooling. The pioneers had not yet learned to look upon schooling otherwise than as a luxury. The means were limited. Lars made the remark not long ago: "Why didn't I know enough to supply my grandfather with reading matter? He was thirsting for reading matter but had to confine himself to only two papers and very few books."

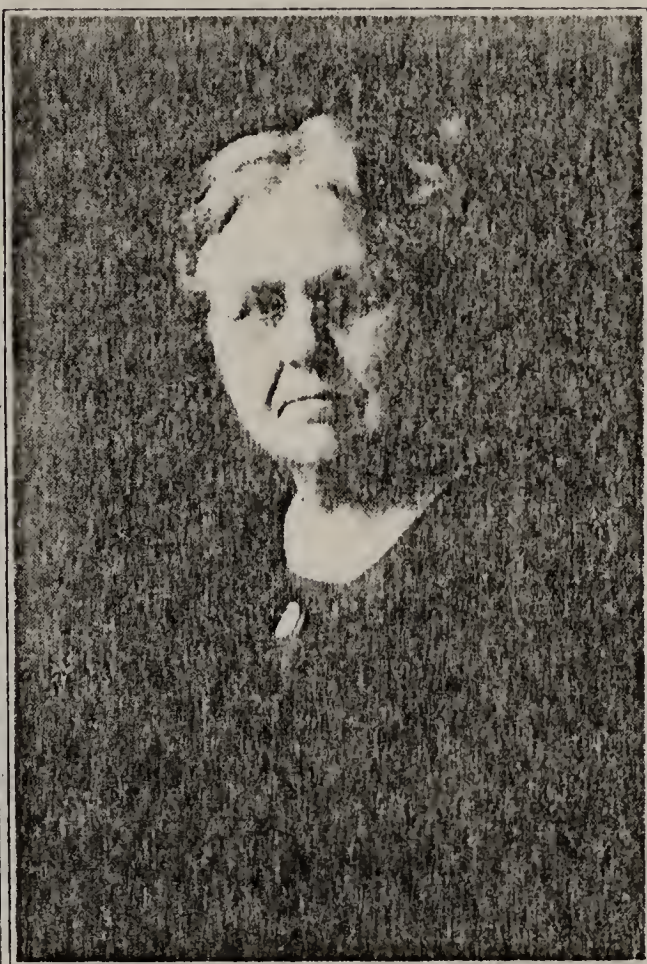
Lars also thirsted for knowledge. Because he had determination he did manage to get some schooling. He attended Albion Academy for a few terms and he was one of the first students from his home community. Even this little smattering of an education has stood Lars in good stead through life. He farmed a few years independently and worked in his uncle's store at Stoughton for a while. He made a trip to Mower County, Minnesota, in 1874. Lars felt the call of the West so strongly that he decided to go out West permanently. Renville County, Minnesota, seemed a great distance from Dane County, Wisconsin, at that time. Although Father and Mother did not like to see their young son go so far away, they did not restrain him. They helped him get ready for his trip and bade him Godspeed. He left home the spring of 1876. The tears of the parents, the Bible which was handed him by his mother, and the hand clasp of the loved ones could not but make a deep impression upon the young man as the prairie schooner began to move from the old home. Lars made his first trip out west before the railroad reached Renville County. For a few years he was actively engaged in farming. Later he acquired a farm or two more and became manager of his realty holdings. Although he has appeared to be a man of leisure he has never been an idler. Besides managing his holdings he has at times been both in the mercantile and banking business. Part of the time he has resided in the city of Renville and part of the time he has lived on one of his farms about two miles west of Renville.

In 1882 Lars married Mary Mathison Smedsrud of Rockdale, Wisconsin. Her parents were early pioneers. Their children are Henry Melvin, who was born November 7, 1884; Oscar Leonard, born September 21, 1890, and Mabel Gunnilda, born April 27, 1895. Oscar's career was short. He died April 5, 1916. His

parents, with his brother and sister, mourned the loss of a dutiful and promising son as well as a dear brother. On October 18, 1906 Henry married Laura Arneberg. They have three children: Luverne, who married P. E. Leckner October 15, 1927, Carlyle, and Joyce. Henry and his family have lived on the home farm for many years. Mabel married Francis H. Appleton August 20, 1919, and they live at Renville.



Jorgen (George) A. Lien



*Mrs. George A. Lien
(Louise Tellefson)*

2. *Jørgen Andreas* (George) was born at the old home November 3, 1856. George was always efficient and dependable, and won many friends. Although he did not have much opportunity for schooling beyond the grades, he has been a useful and intelligent citizen and a successful business man. In early life he learned the trade of a harness maker and in 1882 he responded to the call from the West. The West seemed a little nearer now to the home folks because Lars had opened the way. George went to Renville and later to Granite Falls. He soon abandoned his trade as a harness maker and launched into the mercantile business. For some years he was in the hardware business. Later he entered the general merchandise field. He served his townsmen as an efficient postmaster for two terms. Sometimes it is a good thing

to be a Democrat. He was a banker in the First National Bank until he retired a few years ago.

On July 11, 1882 George married Louise Tellefson. The Tellefsons were one of the leading families in Rockdale, and have always enjoyed considerable prestige in that community. Chester Tellefson was the pioneer merchant at Rockdale. George and Louise have four daughters: Hannah Gunnilda, born April 15,



*Martin J. Lien and wife
(Nelia Haere)*



*Martin J. Lien and wife
(Hannah Tellefson)*

1883; Hulda Katinka, born August 29, 1884; Luella Cassandra, born June 1, 1886; Ruth Genevieve, born December 9, 1892. All the girls followed teaching or business careers. Hannah married B. P. Six in 1917, and they have one child, George William. They live in New Mexico. Hulda married Paul Sheimo in 1920. They live in Granite Falls and have three daughters: Louise Eleanor, Alice Marian, and Edith Pauline. Luella married Arba Powers in 1914, and they have one son, Richard. Mr. Powers is an attorney located at Mahanomen, Minnesota. He is a candidate to represent his district in the legislature. Ruth married Dr. Walter R. Atcherson in 1921. They reside in Granite Falls, and have two daughters, Jane and Mary.

3. *Martin Johannes* was born at the old home January 31, 1859. Lars is authority for the statement that Martin and a son

of Johannes Onstad were the first to be baptized in the old stone church, which was completed in 1859.

In 1877 the Norwegian Synod founded a school at Madison in connection with Luther Seminary. This school was called Monona Academy. Pastor J. A. Ottesen strongly urged the parents in his congregations to send their young people to this school. Hendrik and Gunnilda Lien had several boys of school age and had been brought to see that it was their duty to give them an opportunity to attend school. In the fall of 1878 Martin and his younger brother, Abel, were sent to Monona Academy, which they attended for two terms. The following year Abel was sent to Luther College and Martin continued at the Academy.

In his early years, Martin disclosed considerable aptitude and liking for learning the trade of a shoemaker; both his grandfather and father could make shoes, in fact Hendrik Lien made the shoes for his family for many years. Martin assisted his father and became a skilled workman. He continued on the farm for some time before he decided to go into business, first in hardware and later in a shoe store. He has been located at Lake Mills, Iowa; Janesville, Rockdale, and Edgerton, Wisconsin. He still continues in business at Edgerton.



Four generations, taken about 1911
Hendrik Lien, b. 1825
Martin J. Lien, b. 1859
Neil M. B. Lien, b. 1883
Harold R. Lien, b. 1907

In 1882 he married Nelia Nelson Haere, a daughter of a pioneer family at East Koshkonong. Nelia was at one time organist in the East Koshkonong Church. Their wedded life was short,

because the young wife died a few days after the birth of her son, Neil, August 18, 1883. In 1888 Martin married Hannah Tellefson, a sister of Mrs. George Lien. She was a kind and loving wife and mother, and was called to her last rest in 1922.

Martin's children are: Neil, born in 1883; Hazel, born in 1890; Gerhard, born in 1891; Emmett, born in 1893 (died in 1900); Carlyle, born in 1896; and Emmett, born in 1902. Neil married Nora Nelson and their children are: Anna, Harold, Nelia, and Vivian. Of these Anna married Arnold Lund in 1924, and has a daughter, Norma June. This girl, born in 1925, is the first of the sixth generation of Liens in America. Harold married Lydia Polk in 1928, and Nelia married Clarence Lund in 1929. Hazel married Clarence M. Helgeby in 1924, and lives near Rockdale. Gerhard married Claribel Whaley in 1917, and they have four children: Mary, Donald, Robert, and William. They live in Lincoln, Nebraska. Carlyle married Bessie Robinson, and they have one daughter, Dorothy. Carlyle served abroad during the World War and is now located at Edgerton, Wisconsin. Emmett married Dorothy M. Graves, and they have two daughters, Shirley Ann and Dolores Jeanette. Their home is in Reading, Pennsylvania.



*Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lien
(Lena Onstad)*

4. *Joseph Randolph* was born at the old home at East Koshkonong February 17, 1861. Joseph was always a good and faithful son and brother; he was willing to remain at home while both older and younger brothers went away to school. Later he attended Albion Academy several terms. When he became of age he indicated that he wished to become a farmer, and arrangements were made by which that part of father's land which was called "the prairie farm," was sold to him. Joseph has always been an industrious and successful man, as is evidenced in part by his fine appearing farm near the East Koshkonong Church. In 1924 Joseph and his family retired from the farm and established a new home in Madison, Wisconsin. With their increased leisure time they enjoy fully their comfortable home.

In 1885 Joseph married Lena Onstad, a daughter of Johannes and Anna Onstad, also old pioneers of Koshkonong. Their children are: Arthur, born 1886 (died 1889); Anna, born 1890 (died



Reuben J. Lien



*Gaea E. Lien
(Mrs. Arthur Smithback)*

1890); Gaea, born 1891 (died 1893); Gaea, born 1895; and Reuben, born 1902. Gaea married Arthur E. Smithback in 1920, and they have a daughter, Lorraine Mary. They live in Madison with her parents. Reuben has been employed in Milwaukee, but has been forced to quit because of illness. Those who were present at the 1930 reunion will never forget his pluck and courage in making the effort to be present in spite of the fact that he was about to enter a sanatorium in Colorado.

5. *Abel Edvard* was born at the old home on March 5, 1863. His boyhood years were uneventful. It is reported that he had a



Abel E. Lien



*Mrs. Abel E. Lien
(Andrea Kittilsen)*



*Mrs. Abel E. Lien
(Anna Farseth)*

born 1897; Erling, born 1900; Inga, born 1901; Edel, born 1904; Ruth, born 1905; Dagmar, born 1906; Abel, born 1907 (died 1908); and Carl, born 1909. Lidvard married Nellie Nash in 1921, and lives in the far West. Esther married C. E. Stanley in 1920, and they have a daughter, Ruth Andrea. They are located in Great Falls, Montana. Jacob Aall married Cornelia Wahl in 1921; they live in Jewell, Iowa, and their children are Jacob Aall Ottesen, Daniel Westay, and Cornelia Elizabeth. Frieda married H. A. Ahlness in 1918; their children are Adele Marie, Jean Elizabeth, and Paul Lien. They live in Rhame, North Dakota. Edel married Rev. H. M. Finstad of Lawler, Iowa, in 1928, and they have a son, Harold Martin. Agnes, Jacob Aall, and Ruth are in the teaching profession; Lidvard, Erling, and Inga are in the business world; Dagmar is a nurse, and Carl is attending Luther Theological Seminary.



Ella Lien and her husband, Rev. O. T. Lee, and their children, Hartwick, Valborg, Luella, Reuben, Ruth and Sophus

6. *Eli Marie* (Ella) was born on September 23, 1865. She was named for her distinguished grandmother, Eli Ingebrigtsen Berdahl. Having been preceded by seven brothers, the sweet little sister was welcomed by all. Ella was not a robust child, but she had a great deal of pluck. We can easily imagine how dear she was to the mother who for so many years had had only boys; even though they may have been good boys, they were boys.

In 1875 an organ was purchased for the old home; it was bought primarily for Ella's use, since few considered playing

Lutheran services conducted by a pastor from the church of Norway. Herman attended Albion Academy several terms.

Herman is a successful and progressive farmer, and has held many offices of trust both in his community and in his church. His wife, Julia Onsgaard, comes from a pioneer family in the town of Albion; her grandmother, Sigrid Onsgaard, was a well known figure in the East Koshkonong Church for many years.



Herman O. Lien and wife (Julia Onsgaard) and their children, Ella, Mildred, Howard, Walter, Inga, Nora, Hattie and Clara

Herman and Julia were married in 1891 and their children are: Clara, born 1892; Hattie, born 1893; Ella, born 1896; Nora, born 1898; Mildred, born 1901 (died 1901); Mildred, born 1902; Inga, born 1905; Walter, born 1908; and Howard, born 1911. Hattie married Nordahl Veum in 1922 and they have two sons, James and Robert. Ella married Bernie Ellickson in 1923 and their sons are Earl and Donald. These two daughters and their families live on farms near Herman's home. Clara is at home, and the other girls are following teaching and business careers. Walter is a farmer, and Howard is a student at St. Olaf College.

Of the many reunions in the Lien family, most of them have been held at Herman's home. All the frequent visitors have been

made to feel welcome and at home, and sentiments like this are often expressed: "Are they not wonderful hosts? How good it is to be here!"

8. *Gustav Theodore* was born on December 22, 1870. He was quiet and reserved from boyhood. He remained on the farm for some time, although he also attended Albion Academy. He married Jennie Marie Gullickson in 1900. Her people came from Rock Prairie in the early days. Gustav has farmed at Rio and DeForest. After his health began to fail they moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where they have since resided. At the 1929 Lien reunion their silver wedding was commemorated with appropriate



Gustav T. Lien and wife (Jennie Gullickson)

gifts and greetings. Their children are: Lulu, born 1903; Eleanor, born 1907; Hartwick, born 1909 (died 1910); and Ruth, born 1912. Lulu is married to E. D. Lopeneit and lives in Milwaukee; Eleanor teaches and Ruth is still in school.

9. *Henry Oscar* was born on April 10, 1872, and is the youngest of the Lien boys. His boyhood years were spent on the old farm except for two years at Stoughton Academy, until he moved with his parents to Northwood, Iowa. He later attended Albert Lea Academy but soon returned to Wisconsin and became a farmer.

T H E L I E N F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y

In 1900 Oscar married Louise Ellickson. Her parents were not among the Koshkonong pioneers, but moved there in the seventies from Janesville. Oscar and his wife located near Rio, Wisconsin, where they have a fine, up-to-date farm. Their children are: Myrtle, born in 1901; Eunice, born in 1906; Evelyn, born in 1907; Valborg, born in 1909; and Frances, born in 1918. Some



Oscar H. Lien and wife (Louise Ellickson) and their children, Valborg, Eunice, Myrtle, Evelyn and Frances

of the girls have entered business and teaching careers, and the younger ones are still in school. Frances is the youngest of the sixty-one Lien grandchildren of which forty-eight are living.

10. *Didrikke Aall Ottesen* is the baby in the family and the second daughter. She was born in the new home March 11, 1877. Old Pastor Ottesen, who was a good friend of the family, requested

the privilege of naming the little girl. This request was readily granted, and members of the pastor's family became her sponsors. The names are historical in the Ottesen family.

Dikka, as Didrikke has always been called, resembles her good mother in many ways, and was a great help and comfort to her in



*Didrikke Lien Savre and Husband B. K. Savre with their four children
Lauritz, Valborg, Harold and Esther*

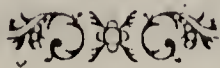
her declining years. Dikka moved with her parents to Northwood in 1893, and assumed much of the responsibility in the new home. The family at this time included Father, Mother, Oscar, our nephew Neil, and Dikka. Dikka attended Lutheran Ladies' Seminary, Red Wing, Minnesota, and studied music in Chicago.

After her mother's death in 1895 she remained at home with her father. She also accompanied him on his two trips (1897 and 1901) out West, to visit Lars, George, and Abel. In 1902 on August 27, Dikka married Prof. B. K. Savre of Kensett, Iowa, a son of the well known pioneers of Worth County, Iowa, Knut E. and Gjertrud Savre. B. K. Savre is a graduate of Luther College, 1896. He attended Northern Indiana Normal School, Valparaiso, Indiana, 1898-1900. He taught at Luther College, 1900-01; president of Clifton College, 1901-04; principal at Glenwood Academy, 1904-07; president of Grand Forks College, 1907-09;

editor "Glenwood Herald," 1909-12; professor at Luther College, 1912-18. He has since been editor of "The Glenwood Herald."

Their children are: Harold, born 1903; Valborg, born 1904; Esther, born 1907; Edmund, born 1909, and Erling, born 1913 (died 1916). Harold married Alma Anderberg in 1928 and teaches at Wadena, Minnesota. Valborg and Esther are teachers, and Edmund is employed in Glenwood.

All the Lien homes have been centers of good influence. Kindly, loving, earnest fathers and mothers have sought not only material success and earthly happiness for their children, but also an appreciation of things of value in the life hereafter. Each home has, of course, been centered about its children, and as is the way of all life, the many, many happy hours have been interspersed with darker hours. We like to think of these homes as cheery, cozy ones, where the give and take of daily life has often been intermingled with good spirit and happy wit. To all the sisters-in-law and the brothers-in-law, whether living or dead, the ten Liens owe much of the unity of spirit that has prevailed throughout these many years.



XII

CONCLUSION

In closing this little family history, I wish to thank the whole family group for the honor which was bestowed upon me in electing me to compile this history. Although it is a type of work which I enjoy, I realize fully that it is inadequately done. This is not due to lack of interest. As a matter of fact, writing even a small family history represents a considerable task. Much material must be secured. Even seemingly insignificant items must be accurate in a history. The getting of one single picture may necessitate the writing of many letters. All this takes time—considerable time. That accounts for the fact that this history was not published earlier. But even though the work has been a little difficult due to lack of time, I have tried to do my best. In cases of omissions or errors, I ask your pardon.

The work has been a source of great pleasure and genuine satisfaction. I am proud of the brothers and sisters, who, with such a fine spirit of interest and co-operation have made all the happy reunions possible, as well as causing this little publication to appear.

Having observed how much good already has been accomplished through our family reunions, I express the wish and the hope that each succeeding generation may contribute a family history of the Liens.

If I have succeeded in presenting this good cause in such a way that I have aroused interest in our ancestors and appreciation of their accomplishments, I shall feel amply repaid for the effort expended.

ABEL E. LIEN.

Portland, North Dakota, November, 1930.



XIII

It has been requested that the sermon I was asked to deliver at the eighty-fifth anniversary of the East Koshkonong Church on August 11, 1929, be included in the Lien Family History. Since I feel that the entire sermon would be too lengthy for this purpose I have chosen to include here chiefly introductory and historical excerpts.

ABEL E. LIEN.

JUBILEE FESTIVAL, EAST KOSHKONONG 1929

PSALMS 126:3, "The Lord hath done great things for us;
whereof we are glad."

Beloved members of the East Koshkonong Church with your many friends and guests! Grace be unto you.

We are assembled today to commemorate certain events in your early history as a congregation—events which had a great significance in the lives of the good old pioneers of East Koshkonong—events which should mean much to you—their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The fact that this place is the very center of great historical events in our Church and that the very name Koshkonong suggests several most interesting and important traditions—traditions in which your own ancestors had an important part—traditions which still interest thousands of our church people all over the middle West ought to stir us all to just pride and exultant joy. The reviewing of some of the events and happenings from the pioneer days ought to make your eighty-fifth anniversary festival a real *red letter day*, long to be remembered.

Eighty-five years ago on the first of September Johannes Vilhelm Christian Dietrichson, the first Norwegian Lutheran minister in America, held his first public service in Amand Anderson's barn.

On the 10th of October the same year, 1844, under the leadership of the same pastor Dietrichson, the East Koshkonong congregation was organized with forty families as charter members. Eighty-five years ago, a little later in the fall the log church was built on the very spot where the old stone church of 1858 stood.

On the 31st of January, 1845, the same year in which my beloved parents came to this country, the first church was dedicated. In 1869, on the 1st of September, the 25th anniversary of these important events was commemorated with very solemn and im-

pressive festivities at the church as well as at Amund Anderson's farm. This was a day of gladness and joy, the like of which had never been witnessed among the Norwegians in this country, barring perhaps the dedication of Luther College in 1865. The speakers at the festival of 1869 were the venerable pioneer pastors: H. A. Stub, Vilhelm Koren, Nils Brandt, and your own pastor, Jacob Aall Ottesen.

On October 10th, 1894, these same historical events were again commemorated with extraordinary festivities. At that jubilee festival your magnificent monument on Mr. Adolph Anderson's farm was unveiled. On that occasion some of the most illustrious and representative men of our Church voiced the sentiment of the good old pioneer church workers of East Koshkonong whose hearts were full of joy and gratitude to God for His loving kindness and tender mercies through the fifty years which had elapsed since they with tears of joy and thankful hearts had welcomed a real Lutheran public service such as they had enjoyed in the old fatherland. Then some of the venerable pioneers were still with you. Now they are all resting out here in this beautiful God's acre. For the 1894 festival beautiful greetings were received from Rev. Jacob Aall Ottesen who for 31 years was your faithful and beloved pastor and from Prof. H. G. Stub, who has always been vitally interested in your welfare. The speakers for your golden anniversary were Pastor C. K. Preus, Prof. Lauritz Larson, for 41 years the president of Luther College, and Pastor Adolph Bredesen of Stoughton.

Some one may quietly wonder: Why review all these happenings from olden days? Why make so much of the old pioneers? They had neither wealth nor distinction in the eyes of the world. Why enumerate all these pioneer pastors? They are long since dead. Few people around here know their names!

The very fact that people entertain such thoughts and will ask such questions indicates plainly that alarmingly many people now are so much occupied with purely material things—making a living, gathering wealth or seeking enjoyments that they have very little interest in the events and happenings of bygone days.

It is, indeed, well to be up to date and progressive, but beware of being up to date and progressive in the sense that you forget and perchance even spurn the spirit of the pioneers, your own parents and grandparents, whose loyalty to the Word of God and willingness to make sacrifices for Christ's kingdom has won a place of distinction and honor for all time.

Therefore this congregation and its pastor deserve thanks for observing this red letter day with due festivities. In place of saying, "Who cares for the days of small things from the forties, and

fifties and sixties, when our grandparents were pioneering here?" let us with open minds and devout hearts seek to acquire some of that good Christian spirit and sound enthusiasm which characterized our own forefathers who in spite of serious handicaps and hardships by the grace of God left us such a splendid record of achievement.

Let us go back to pioneer days for a few moments and profit by briefly reviewing some of the dear memories. For our consideration at this eighty-fifth anniversary festival I would ask that you:

I. *Remember the great things which the Lord has done for you.*

II. *Do not forget what the Lord wants you to do for Him!*

A Jubilee Festival is an occasion of joy and gladness. Our text takes us back to a very joyful occasion. The Jews had been in captivity for seventy years in Babylon. They had been punished for their many sins. Think of it! Driven from their land. Compelled to remain captives for seventy years exposed to taunts and insults from a heathen nation that they despised.

They had repented of their sins. They felt very keenly their sad plight. No song of joy had been heard among them for a long time. Their harps had been put away. But there was much pitiful longing and weeping.

Then the Lord brought them tidings of great joy. He announced to them that their captivity was at an end. They were all free to go home—home to their country—home to worship God in their own Holy City.

These tidings made them most happy. In fact they were so full of joy that the years of captivity seemed like a dream. It was too good to be true. Even their heathen neighbors remarked about them, "The Lord hath done great things for them." The Jews soon took up this saying and began to sing with joyful hearts: "The Lord hath done *great things for us*, whereof we are glad." Surely the Lord had done great things for His people.

But the Lord has done great things for *you* also. Any unbiased observer and competent judge will say about you what the neighbors of the Jews said about them: "The Lord hath done great things for them."

Dear members of the East Koshkonong Church—*pause* a few moments on this memorable day! Look back upon the history of this congregation for eighty-five years and you can not fail to see God's guiding hand and it was a loving hand. In all His dealings with your grandparents, parents and yourselves He has plainly dealt with you all as a loving father would deal with his own dear children.

Do you suppose that it was by chance that your grandparents and parents left their little homes back in the valleys of Norway in the forties and fifties? Was it by chance that these true patriots left their own country and went over three thousand miles to find homes in a strange land and among strange people? Was it by chance that these sturdy emigrants came to Koshkonong and other settlements in the Middle West?

Why did they not choose some obscure locality in the East where they scarcely would have been heard of since? Their limited means and scant rations surely did not encourage them to travel so far inland. Why did they continue their hard journey until they reached these particular places whose names are so familiar to us now? We know why. The Lord had destined this sturdy Norwegian Lutheran race to occupy this wonderful and beautiful land. It seems that the Lord had a definite purpose in directing the Scandinavian Lutheran people to the great Middle West. Of course these many beautiful homes did not stand here ready for the newcomers. But the golden opportunities were here. In the old country the opportunities had been scant and limited. There was no future for the young and strong who were willing to work hard and faithfully to attain success. That was the particular type which settled in these regions. By industry, honesty, and frugality early settlers who came here practically without means made fine progress and soon established comfortable homes. The Lord prospered the labor of their hands. Throughout the length and breadth of Koshkonong prairie and vicinity the pioneers did not only establish attractive homes and well equipped farms but they won the reputation of being loyal and law-abiding citizens as well as good honest Christian men and women, with obedient children. They were generally known in such a way that their names had a good sound.

Surely the Lord did great things for your ancestors.

But the Lord has done even greater things for you.

It was not only in a material way that your grandparents and parents were eminently successful. They built their homes, but they did not neglect the house of God. They were ever mindful of the fact that man does not live by bread alone. They put first things *first*. They observed in truth the order of things in Christ's Kingdom: "Seek ye *first* the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

They did not bring much with them of worldly goods. They were poor financially. But they possessed riches of a better kind. In their big chests they had the Bible, the hymnbook, the "forklaring," Luther's "postille" and other devotional books. They did not permit these books to remain in the chests as old relics. They

made good use of them. They possessed a thorough knowledge of the way of salvation. They were so well grounded in the Lutheran faith that they did not become an easy prey for the many false prophets who persistently sought to proselyte. They had memorized many of our beautiful Lutheran hymns and they *sang* those hymns. Many of them sang them while they were at work. They had family prayer. They were church goers. I can well remember the beautiful custom maintained for years in the old stone church of 1858. Many of the older members would occupy their particular place in church. It was not necessary to have names on the pews. The worshipper knew his or her pew and was always there to occupy it. Whenever Sunday morning came it was not an open question whether or not they should attend church. It was a foregone conclusion that the family should attend church. Also the children.

When the pioneers of East Koshkonong and other congregations left their fatherland it was not for the purpose of going away from the church and their God. Tears trickled down their cheeks when they left their old churches with so many dear memories.

They prayed that they might soon be able to secure new church homes true to the Lutheran faith. And God heard their prayer.

They did not have to wait long. Four years after the first family had settled in the town of Christiana the Godfearing and devout pioneers of East Koshkonong were invited to a public service, a real Lutheran service such as they used to attend in the fatherland. In 1843 a good Christian man in Christiania (now Oslo), a Mr. Sørensen, saw shipload after shipload depart for America. God put it into his heart to make some provision for the spiritual welfare of all these emigrants in the foreign land. Thus it was that pastor J. W. C. Dietrichson was enabled to come here in 1844.

When these earliest settlers of Koshkonong were invited to a Lutheran service in this new land—a service with the same teachings, the same hymns as in their old church of Norway, do you wonder that their hearts swelled with joy and gratitude when they began to sing: “*Søde Jesu vi er her.*”

Dear children and grandchildren, have you fully realized what great things the Lord has done for you?

Do you fully realize what a splendid heritage you have received—a land which can properly be likened to the land of which Moses spoke when he said to Israel: “The Lord bringeth thee unto a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack anything in it.”

Do you fully realize that you are the recipients of a much

greater heritage—the *Lutheran faith*? I am not saying too much when I say that this same Lutheran faith was transmitted to you by your parents and grandparents in such a way that you have the same knowledge of the way of salvation as they possessed.

To be sure they should have had better parochial schools and longer terms. But one thing I do remember from the early days. Your parents and grandparents did not leave the instruction of their children to the short parochial school term. They took charge of this work themselves.

They were concerned for the spiritual welfare of their children.

I have personally seen some of these parents bid farewell to the son and daughter as they were about to seek their home in a land far away. Only few words were used, but the son and daughter felt that they came from a heart full of love and full of prayer for their welfare.

What a great heritage we have all received. Surely “the Lord hath done great things for us!”

But let me not forget to ask: What does the Lord want you to do for Him?

When Israel in Babylon realized that the Lord had done great things for them their hearts were filled with joy. They knew very well who had brought them the glad tidings. They at once began to speak about these glad tidings. They at once began to praise God in song. Now they brought out their harps.

The Lord has done great things for you. What does He want you to do for Him? In the first place He wants you to *rejoice*. People get together for celebrations and festivals when many a time there is not much cause for celebration. But on such an occasion as this why should not your hearts be filled with joy? Is it time to be indifferent and cold when you hear about the many great things the Lord has done for you? Were the pioneers of East Koshkonong indifferent and cold when they assembled in Adolph Anderson’s barn on September 1st, 1844? No, indeed not; thanksgiving and praise were offered as they stood face to face with the great things which the Lord had done for them.

The Jews at Babylon did not show their joy and gratitude only by praising God in word and song. They were ready, yea eager to do His will. They at once began to rebuild the temple. The joy and gratitude which filled the hearts of the pioneers on East Koshkonong in the forties and fifties did not continue to be only in their hearts. They praised God in word and song. They sang hymns of praise as they had never done before. But they did *more*. Few and poor as they were, lacking practically every

comfort, meeting obstacles on every hand, their joy and gratitude found expression in a wonderful willingness to do God's will. They organized the congregation *at once*. They did not *wait* for years until they had laid aside money. They built their first church in 1844 although it demanded many and great sacrifices to do it.

They called Pastor Dietrichson as their pastor and offered him a salary which again meant great and unceasing effort.

They were still living in their crowded and crude shacks when they subscribed liberally, for that time and their circumstances, toward the building of Luther College. They maintained their parochial schools in those early days although a few dollars was to them a big sum.

They contributed annually to the maintenance of Luther College although they had no surplus. They had to deny themselves the very things which we call necessities of life to do it. From Koshkonong and many other congregations in similar circumstances many of those parents sent their sons to Luther College even if it demanded the most rigid economy to do it. Now I ask you, the children and the grandchildren of these very pioneers are you going to find fault with the attitude of your parents and your grandparents? Do you really think they deserve to be censured for their great willingness? No not censured, but commended and praised. They did like Israel, they built the Lord's temple.

And the Lord prospered and blessed them signally.

Any one who can observe and who is competent to judge in this matter will say: "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes."

But the Lord has not done great things only for your ancestors. He has done great things for *you*. What have you done and what are you doing for the Lord? The Lord's work is not completed. He still has much to do in His church. Are we building God's temple in comparative terms today?

You are not the type of people who would claim credit for what your ancestors did.

The Lord has done great things for *you*. He demands that you should do something for Him. The Lord is not dependent on your work. If you neglect your work for the Lord and shirk your duty you will be the loser. He will find others. Do not deem it a burden to work for the Lord. It is a privilege.

What does the Lord want you to do? What about the many orphans and unfortunate children whom the Lord has placed *at our door*? Let us be frank in this matter. Let us use plain

language. What would you do in a case like this? One bleak and stormy day there comes to your home a little boy or girl. Your attention is called. You see that shivering, hungry bare-footed child through your window. Are you going to talk about the budget, organized charity, etc? No, you will not talk. You will *act* and act at once, to relieve a pressing need.

In just the same way Jesus comes to *you*. Let us make this definite and personal—He comes to *you* in those destitute children asking that you express your love for Him in administering to the needy.

“I have been scourged for you. What have you done for me?”

Jesus comes to you through the need of our Christian schools.

One of our greatest needs today is Christian leadership. We need men and women who know what is right and have the courage to *do* what is right. We need strong Christian characters. We need character builders. We need them in every walk of life. We need that kind of pastors. We need that kind of teachers in our colleges, in our high schools, our grade schools. We need that kind of parents. We need that kind of leaders among our younger people. Where can we get such leaders? Again let us be frank. Can we ordinarily expect to get them from any other source than from our Christian schools and our church homes? But these schools need our support. They are not popular. Jesus comes to us through the needs of our Christian school. He pleads with you:

“I suffered on the cross for you. What are you going to do for Me?”

Jesus comes to us through the needs of our Home Missions. Do you know that quite a few of the sons and daughters who left good Christian homes in Illinois, Wisconsin, Southern Minnesota, and Iowa and went either to the big cities or to the new settlements in Northern Minnesota, Western North Dakota, Canada, Montana, etc., have again and again greeted our Home Mission workers with these words: “Why did you not come before?” Jesus comes to us through the needs of the home mission. “I have bought these souls with a price. Will you help Me find them and save them?”

Jesus comes to you through the needs of the heathen who are reaching out their hands to the Christian church and crying aloud: “Come and help us,” Jesus pleads with you and says: “I gave My life also for the heathen. What will you do for Me?”

You want to be happy. No one would knowingly seek his own unhappiness but thousands upon thousands are unwittingly

seeking their own unhappiness, by living for the material things only. How difficult it is for us all to forget self and find greater things—joy in the work for others—happiness in the life in Christ.

The only way to attain true happiness is to be right with your God. You can not live a life with God except you receive Jesus as your personal Saviour. But if you have accepted Jesus you will say with all your heart: "Lord what wilt Thou have me do?"



<p>Lars H. Lien (b. 1726) m. Margit Pedersdatter ter</p>	<p>Hendrik L. Lien (b. 1758) m. Maette Østensdatter Mikkel Lien</p>	<p>Margit Lars H. Lien (b. 1790, d. 1875) m. Jørand Pedersdatter ter Mattismoen (d. 1874) Barbro Traeo Østen H. Halvor Thoen</p>	<p>Hendrik (b. 1821, d. 1824) Mrs. Maette Rauk Hendrik L. Lien (b. 1825, d. 1912) m. Gunnilda Naeset (b. 1831, d. 1895) Peder L.</p>	<p>Lars (1852) Lars (1853) Johannes (1854) George (1856) Martin (1859) Joseph (1861) Abel (1863) Ella (1865) Herman (1867) Gustav (1869) Gustav (1870) Oscar (1872) n. n. (1875) Didrikke (1877)</p>
<p>Johannes Helleland m. Gjertrud Joensdatter ter in 1709</p>	<p>Anders Helleland (b. 1710) m. Kari Jensdatter Mons Dorthe Lars</p>	<p>Anders Anna Thuri Anders Jens (b. 1756) m. Gjøa Pedersdatter Aafdt (1786) m. Gro Einarsdatter Niøs (1795)</p>	<p>Anders Peder Gjøa Johannes Jensen Naeset (b. 1796, d. 1882) m. Eli Ingebrigtsdatter ter Berdal in 1823. (d. 1850) Ingebrigt Aase Jens Aafdt Anna Frøtheim Peder Linde</p>	<p>Gro (Mrs. Ole Larson Haugen) John Ingebrigt Jens J. Gunnilda Naeset (b. 1831, d. 1895) m. Hendrik L. Lien (b. 1825, d. 1912)</p>
<p>Lien</p>	<p>Naeset</p>	<p>Lien</p>	<p>Naeset</p>	

T H E L I E N F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y

Lars Eliseus Lien
b. 1-14-1853

m. Mary Mathison
7-26-1882
b. 5-4-1856

Henry Melvin
b. 11-7-1884
m. Laura Arneberg
10-18-1906

Oscar Leonard
b. 9-21-1890
d. 4-5-1916

Mabel Gunnilda
b. 4-27-1895
m. Francis H. Appleton
8-20-1919

Laverne Lien
b. 8-12-1907
m. P. E. Leckner
10-15-1927

Carlyle H. Lien
b. 2-12-1912
Joyce I. Lien
b. 2-17-1920

Jørgen Andreas Lien
b. 11-3-1856

m. Karen Louise Tellef-
son
m. 7-11-1882

Hannah Gunnilda
b. 4-15-1883
m. R. P. Six in 1917

Hulda Katinka
b. 8-29-1884
m. Paul G. Sheimo
5-10-1920

Luella Cassandra
b. 6-1-1886
m. Arba Powers
5-6-1914

Ruth Genevieve
b. 12-9-1892
m. Dr. Walter R. Atcher-
son in 1921

George William Six
b. 9-5-1919

Louise Eleanor Sheimo
b. 2-23-1921
Alice Marian Sheimo
b. 11-12-1922
Edith Pauline Sheimo
b. 9-15-1926

Gorham Richard Powers
b. 6-18-1921

Jane Atcherson
b. 9-12-1922
Mary Atcherson
b. 9-14-1926

Martin Johannes Lien
b. 1-31-1859
m. (1) Nelia Nelson
Haere, 1882
b. 5-10-1862
d. 8-22-1883

Neil Martin Bugge
b. 8-18-1883
m. Nora H. Nelson
b. 5-14-1885
d. 10-27-1919

Anna Gunnilda { Norma Jane Lund
b. 3-11-1903 { b. 6-26-1925
m. Arnold Lund
3-11-1924

Harold Bugge
b. 5-18-1907
m. Lydia Polk
8-15-1928

Nelia Margaret
b. 6-19-1909
m. Clarence Lund
12-4-1929

Vivian Edythe
b. 12-16-1917

T H E L I E N F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y

	<p>Hazel Claretta b. 1-8-1896 m. Clarence M. Helgeby 1-1-1924</p>	<p>Mary Elizabeth Lien b. 3-24-1918 Donald Lien b. 12-11-1921 d. 3-13-1923 Robert Lien b. 5-31-1924 William Richard Lien b. 6-9-1928</p>
<p>m. (2) Hannah C. Tellef- son m. 5-30-1888 b. 4-19-1864 d. 9-1-1922</p>	<p>Gerhard Hendrik b. 11-22-1891 m. Claribel Whaley 7-24-1917</p>	
	<p>Emmett Marvin b. 6-20-1893 d. 11-17-1900</p>	
	<p>Giles Carlyle b. 8-19-1896 m. Bessie Robinson 6-24-1922</p>	<p>Dorothy Elizabeth Lien b. 12-29-1927</p>
	<p>Emmett Marvin b. 12-31-1902 m. Dorothy M. Graves</p>	<p>Shirley Ann Lien b. 8-1-1928 Dolores Jeanette Lien b. 2-25-1930</p>
	<p>Arthur Gerhard b. 12-29-1886 d. 4-5-1889</p>	
	<p>Anna Gunnilda b. 3-21-1890 d. 5-23-1890</p>	
<p>Joseph Randolph Lien b. 2-17-1861 m. Betsy Olena Onstad b. 11-20-1862 m. 10-28-1885</p>	<p>Gaea Alvira b. 9-17-1891 d. 9-24-1893</p>	
	<p>Gaea Alvira b. 10-15-1895 m. Arthur E. Smithback 9-8-1920</p>	<p>Lorraine Mary Smithback b. 3-13-1921</p>
	<p>Reuben Johannes b. 5-19-1902</p>	

T H E L I E N F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y

	Agnes Gunnilda b. 5-10-1889 d. 9-11-1889	
	Agnes Gunnilda b. 7-7-1890	
	Hendrik Lidvard b. 8-29-1891 m. Nellie Nash 2-12-1921	
	Esther Katinka b. 10-22-1892 m. C. E. Stanley 11-27-1920	{ Ruth Andrea Stanley b. 6-7-1927
	Jacob Aall Ottesen b. 4-27-1894 d. 10-12-1895	
	Jacob Aall Ottesen b. 9-24-1895 m. Cornelia Wahl 11-6-1921	{ Jacob Aall Ottesen Lien b. 3-30-1923 Daniel Westay Lien b. 12-4-1924 Cornelia Elizabeth Lien b. 10-13-1929
Abel Edvard Lien b. 3-5-1863	Frieda Theodora b. 6-3-1897 m. H. A. Ahlness 7-16-1918	{ Adele Marie Ahlness b. 7-12-1919 Jean Elizabeth Ahlness b. 7-2-1922 Paul Lien Ahlness b. 10-29-1929
m. (1) Andrea Kittilsen 7-12-1888 b. 2-3-1865 d. 9-30-1918	Erling Waldemar Naeset b. 2-21-1900 m. Edith J. Raines 8-21-1930	
	Inga Borghild b. 9-29-1904	
	Edel Bernhardine Kittilsen b. 1-8-1904 m. Rev. H. M. Finstad 6-26-1928	Harold Martin Finstad b. 11-23-1930
	Ruth Mildred b. 6-14-1905	
	Dagmar Adelheid b. 10-4-1906	
	Abel Edvard b. 9-18-1907 d. 9-9-1908	
	Carl Otto Kittilsen b. 1-23-1909	
m. (2) Anna Kathrina Farseth 6-5-1920 b. 2-3-1880		

THE LEEN FAMILY HISTORY

Eli Marie Lien
b. 9-23-1865
d. 10-11-1926

a. Rev. O. T. Lee
b. 5-15-1889
c. 11-5-1859
d. 3-30-1918

Luella Gunnilda
b. 8-9-1894
m. John W. Anderson
8-24-1918

Vulborg Kalinka
b. 9-24-1893
d. 5-11-1924

Reuben Hendrik Walther
b. 4-20-1896
m. Edva Rustad
11-24-1927

Hartwick Theodore
b. 12-4-1899
d. 7-3-1918

Sophus Edward
b. 9-30-1901
m. Ruth Meyers
7-20-1927

Ruth Genevieve
b. 2-8-1906
m. Rev. Paul Krentz
6-25-1929

Phyllis Lorraine Anderson
b. 11-30-1919

Marjorie Elaine Anderson
b. 5-29-1923

{ Marilyn Louise Lee
b. 5-27-1929

Herman - Otto Lien.
b. 8-8-1867

m. Julia Onsgaard
 b. 1-27-1872
 m. 5-20-1891

Clara Henrietta
b. 4-4-1892

Hattie Josephine
b. 12-13-1893
m. Nordahl Venn
8-8 1922

Ella Christina Gunnilda
b. 3-29-1896
m. Bernie Ellickson
5-2-1923

James Stanley Veum
b. 3-3-1926
Robert Lien Veum
b. 12-10-1928

{ Earl Howard Ellickson
 b. 4-24-1925
 { Donald Lien Ellickson
 b. 3-30-1929

Nora Kuliuka
b. 8-5-1898

Mildred Genevieve
b. 2-4-1901
d. 9-3-1901

Mildred Genevieve
b. 5-17-1902

Inga Sigfryd
b. 8-9-1905
m. La Vern Marquart
8-2-1930

Walter Hartwick
b. 9-19-1908

Howard Morris
b. 9-15-1911

T H E L I E N F A M I L Y H I S T O R Y

Gustav Theodore Lien
b. 12-22-1870
m. 2-15-1900

Jennie Marie Gullickson
b. 2-11-1876

Lulu Beatrice Rinnilda
b. 9-25-1903
m. E. D. Lopeneit
8-6-1927

Eleanor Katinka
b. 9-29-1907

Hartwick Otis
b. 10-20-1909
d. 2-21-1910

Ruth Henrietta
b. 11-22-1912

Henry Oscar Lien,
b. 4-10-1872

m. Louise Ellickson
b. 7-13-1875
m. 2-28-1901

Myrtle Henrietta
b. 10-13-1901

Eunice Rosalind
b. 7-30-1906

Evelyn Ellickson
b. 12-31-1907

Valborg Minerva
b. 7-23-1909

Frances Louise
b. 3-20-1918

Didrikke Aall Ottosen
Lien
b. 3-11-1877

m. B. K. Savre
8-27-1902
b. 8-20-1873

Harold Kaspar
b. 7-2-1903
m. Alma L. Anderberg
8-10-1928

Valborg Margaret
b. 12-16-1904

Esther Gimmilda
b. 8-28-1907

Lauritz Edmund
b. 10-24-1909

Erling Gerhard
b. 8-17-1913
d. 3-14-1916

